Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-084
Tuesday
4 May 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-084 4 May 1993

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Peace Negotiations in Washington Begin Second Week 1
Syria's al-'Allaf Views Progress *[SANA]* 1
'Ashrawi Warns of Too Much Optimism *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
Jordan Not Negotiating for Palestinians *[Amman TV]* 1
'No Progress' Reported *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
Palestinians Propose Joint Declaration *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
Al-'Allaf Comments on 3 May Session *[Damascus Radio]* 2
Israeli Delegates on Palestinian, Syrian Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 3
No Progress Reported in Night Sessions *[Amman Radio]* 3
IDF Withdrawal From S. Lebanon Discussed *[HADASHOT 4 May]* 4
Lebanon's Shammas Urges No Comment *[Beirut Radio]* 4

Islamic Affairs

Further Reportage on End of ICO Conference 4
Libya Urges Open Airspace *[JANA]* 4
Saudi Foreign Minister on Conference *[SPA]* 4
Jordan's Foreign Minister on Meeting *[IRNA]* 5

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah Representative Hails Return of Deportees *[MENA]* 5
PLO's al-Najjab Denies Withdrawal From Talks Team *[AL-DUSTUR 30 Apr]* 5
Freedom Defense Leader Rejects al-Husayni Line *[Milan EUROPEO 30 Apr]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Security Forces Kill, Arrest 'Terrorists' in Blida, Setif *[Algiers Radio]* 7
FIS Leader Stands Trial Over 'Seditious' Leaflets *[Algiers Radio]* 7
FIS Lawyer Sentenced for Leaflet *[Algiers Radio]* 7
FLN Leader on Promoting Dialogue With Higher State Council *[Algiers Radio]* 7

Egypt

Al-Baz Optimistic Over Mideast Peace Talks, Bosnia *[MENA]* 8
Pakistan Orders Deportation of Terrorists; Names Given *[MENA]* 8
Opposition Figure Says Iran 'Exporting Extremism' *[MENA]* 9
Success of Sudan's Abuja Conference Viewed *[Cairo Radio]* 9
Musa Leaves for Austria Talks With IAEA Head *[MENA]* 9
Interior Minister Says No Dialogue With Terrorists *[MENA]* 9
Differences Reported Among Islamic Group Leadership *[AL-AHALI 28 Apr]* 9
Two Volunteers in Afghan Resistance Arrested at Airport *[MENA]* 10
Security Forces Arrest Terrorist in al-Fayyum *[MENA]* 10
Tourism Minister Notes 13-Percent Drop in Tourism *[AL-WAFD 29 Apr]* 11

Libya

Saudis To Mediate for Pilgrims To Visit Mecca *[JANA]* 11
Commentary Says Mecca Should Remain Neutral *[Tripoli Radio]* 11
Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Students in al-Zintan *[Libyan TV]* 11

Morocco

King Hassan Receives Iraq's Envoy al-Tikriti *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 13

Sudan

Update on Second Abuja Peace Talks *[Omdurman Radio]* 13
Garang Not To Join Delegation *[AFP]* 13
SPLA Confederation Concept Rejected *[London International]* 13
Draft Law Recriminating Opposition Rejected *[MENA]* 14
Opposition Ummah Party Announces Detention of Leaders *[MENA]* 14
Ummah Party London Official Escapes 'Assassination Attempt' *[London AL-HAYAH 29 Apr]* 14
Sudanese Embassy Opening in Eritrea Noted *[SUNA]* 15

Tunisia

President Holds Talks With Germany's Weizsaecker *[Tunis Radio]* 15

ARABIAN PENINSULA

GCC Secretary General Rejects Carbon Tax *[KUNA]* 16

Bahrain

Lebanese Prime Minister Visits Manama on Regional Tour *[WAKH]* 16
Decision To Reopen Beirut Embassy Announced *[WAKH]* 16
Al-Hariri Holds Talks, Departs *[WAKH]* 16

Kuwait

Iraq Agrees To Hand Over Missing Kuwaiti Family *[KUNA]* 17
Details of Bush Plot Suspects Revealed *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 29 Apr]* 17
Prime Minister on Extremism, Iraq, Security *[AL-AHRAM 27 Apr]* 18
Possible Reactions to Carbon Tax Considered *[KUNA]* 20

Oman

'No Threat' Seen in Iranian Territorial Waters Decision *[London AL-HAYAH 29 Apr]* 21
Border Disputes With Iran, Pakistan Denied *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 30 Apr]* 21

Saudi Arabia

Replies to Libyan Charges on Hajj Reported *[SPA]* 21
Cabinet Discusses Bosnia, Other Issues *[Riyadh TV]* 22

Yemen

President Interviewed on Ties With Neighbors, West *[Cairo International]* 23
YSP Accused of Election Assassination Attempt *[London AL-HAYAH 30 Apr]* 24
YRG Has 'No Reservations' About Possible Coalition *[London AL-HAYAH 29 Apr]* 24

IRAQ

Baghdad Seeking Permission for Pilgrim Flights to Mecca *[AFP]* 25
Saudi Guards Said To Kill Iraqi 'Detainees' *[INA]* 25

Tariq 'Aziz Confers With DFLP's Hawatimah *[INA]* 25
Saddam Receives Hawatimah *[INA]* 25
Ramadan Receives PFLP Official 30 Apr *[INA]* 25
'Aziz Meets Vatican Official, Urges Embargo End *[Baghdad Radio]* 26
Yemeni Elections Said 'Strong Slap' to U.S. *[INA]* 26
Tanks, Armor Reported Deployed on Baghdad Streets *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 26
'Sources' Predict Government Reshuffle *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 26
Kurdish Areas Shelled 30 April, 1 May *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 26
Car Loaded With TNT Found in Kurdish-Controlled Area *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 26

ISRAEL

Rabin Defends Stand on Golan, Rejects Syrian Remarks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Peres Comments on Talks With Syria, Plans for Autonomy *[Jerusalem TV]* 27
Evaluates Current Round *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Peres 'Explicitly' Favors Dialogue With PLO *[HADASHOT 3 May]* 28
Beilin Denies Peres Remarks *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 28
Peres Urges Islamic Leaders To Denounce Violence *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
East Jerusalem Residents To Vote in Autonomy Elections *[AFP]* 29
Police Minister Says Palestinian Force To Follow Autonomy *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Further Remarks on Force's Functioning *[Jerusalem Radio, etc]* 30
Settlers Establishing Own Police Force in Territories *[HADASHOT 3 May]* 30
Thousands Greet Returning Deportees *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
More on Return *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Helicopters Return Safely From Lebanon Attack *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
IDF Reserve Service To Be Halved by 1996 *[AL HAMISHMAR 3 May]* 31
U.S. Said Planning New Gulf War, Fears Israel To Hit Iran *[AL HAMISHMAR 4 May]* 31
Morocco Invites Environment Minister to Conference *[AFP]* 32
German Defense Minister Gives Impressions of Visit
[Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG 30 Apr-1/2 May] 32
Moldova To Receive Aid in Military Conversion *[HA'ARETZ 30 Apr]* 32
Peres Protests Noninclusion in UN European Bloc *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33

LEBANON

Buwayz Comments on Peace Talks, Syrian Presence *[AL-SAFIR 28 Apr]* 34
Deportee Spokesman Says 'New Steps' Planned After Sit-In *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 35
Defense Minister on Military Assistance, Israeli Attacks *[MENA]* 35
Islamic Resistance Claims Attack on Israeli Patrol *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 36
Mortar Fire on SLA Post; Hizballah Claims Crossing Attack *[RFL]* 36
Israeli 'Barrage' of Villages in South Continuing *[Beirut Radio]* 36
Israelis Said To Kill 2 Resistance Men in Clash *[RFL]* 36
Family Wounded in Israeli Raid on Citizen's Home *[VOM]* 36
Paper Suspended After ICN Closure; Reaction Reported 37
Charged With Disturbing Security *[Beirut Radio]* 37
Reasons for Closure Detailed *[MENA]* 37
'Awn Criticizes Closures *[Voice of the South]* 37
Buwayz on 'Conspiracies' *[Beirut Radio]* 37
Al-Hariri on Freedom of Information *[VOL]* 37
Fadlallah, Hizballah Comment *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 38
Journalists, Editors 'Regret' Decision *[Beirut Radio]* 38
ICN Closure Based on 'Discrimination' *[AL-SAFIR 30 Apr]* 38

SYRIA

Al-Zu'bi Notes Israeli 'Maneuvers' in May Day Address *[Damascus Radio]* 39
Al-Asad Meets With Japanese Envoy, Comments on Peace Process *[Damascus TV]* 39
Al-Asad Invited To Visit Japan *[KYODO]* 39
Turkish Interior Ministry Official Arrives *[SANA]* 39
Official Talks Begin *[SANA]* 39
Information Minister Confers With Sudanese Counterpart *[Damascus Radio]* 40

Press on Continued Israeli 'Maneuvers,' U.S. Credibility *[Damascus Radio]* 40
Commentary Calls Occupied Lands 'Holy as Peace Itself' *[Damascus Radio]* 41
Israeli 'Clamor' Over Return of Deportees Dismissed *[Damascus Radio]* 42
Commentary Says Israel Wants Both Land, Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 42

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Further on Factions' Jalalabad Talks on Cabinet *[Kabul Radio]* 44

Bangladesh

Security for Prime Minister Tightened After Colombo Blast *[AFP]* 44
Leaders Send Condolences on Death of Premadasa *[Dhaka Radio]* 44
Prime Minister To Attend Premadasa's Funeral *[Dhaka Radio]* 44
1992 Export Earnings Rise by 25 Percent *[THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER 23 Apr]* 45

India

Manipur Death Toll Reaches 50; 4 More Areas Under Curfew *[Delhi Radio]* 45
Bomb Blasts in Kashmir Kill 1, Injure 40 *[AFP]* 45
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Said Threatened by LTTE *[Delhi Radio]* 45
Chavan on Pakistan Involvement in Bombay Blasts *[Delhi Radio]* 46
More Smuggled Weaponry From Pakistan Expected *[INDIAN EXPRESS 19 Apr]* 46
Comment on Dismissal of Sharif Government *[INDIAN EXPRESS 20 Apr]* 46
U.S. Criticized Over Threat of Sanctions *[INDIAN EXPRESS 3 Apr]* 47
U.S. Cited as Biggest Foreign Investor *[PATRIOT 25 Apr]* 47
France Offers Cooperation in Aerospace Projects *[AFP]* 48
Economic Cooperation Pact Signed With Yemen *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Delhi, Dhaka Agree To Expand Bilateral Trade *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Foreign Exchange Reserves, Requirements Viewed *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Government Said 'Rushing Into Bankruptcy' *[INDIAN EXPRESS 22 Apr]* 49

Iran

Reportage on Delegation to IMF, World Bank Meeting 50
Nurbakhsh Comments on Talks *[IRNA]* 50
Delegate Denied Entry to U.S. *[IRNA]* 50
Shahrudi on 'Ordeal' *[IRNA]* 50
Iranian Diplomat: No Ties With Israel *[DAVAR 2 May]* 51
Reportage on Visit of Vietnamese Foreign Minister 52
Minister Arrives 3 May *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Discusses Scope of Talks *[IRNA]* 52
Talks With Velayati on Ties *[Tehran TV]* 52
Meets President 4 May *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Reaction to Assassination of Sri Lankan President 53
Ministry Condemns Assassination *[IRNA]* 53
Velayati Sends Condolences *[IRNA]* 53
OPEC 'Differences' Serve West, Keep Prices Down *[TEHRAN TIMES 26 Apr]* 53
Velayati Reports on ICO Karachi Conference 54
Sums Up Results *[IRNA]* 54
On ICO Resolution on Bosnia *[Tehran TV]* 54
Azerbaijani Envoy on 'Karabakh Issue' *[TEHRAN TIMES 20 Apr]* 54
Economic Ties Discussed With Japanese, Germans *[IRNA]* 55
Rohani, Delegation Report on Meetings in Germany 55
Rohani Interviewed on Results *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Plans for Cooperation *[IRNA]* 56
SCNS Hears Rohani Report *[Tehran Radio]* 56
'Official Visit' Questioned *[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]* 56
'Spy' Case Against German in 'Final Stage' *[IRNA]* 57

Nateq-Nuri on Rights Violations, Nuclear Arms *[IRNA]* 58
Afghan Refugees Return Home *[Tehran Radio]* 58
'Grave Doubts' About Bosnia Peace Plan Aired *[IRNA]* 58
Dismissal of Pakistani National Assembly Viewed *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 22 Apr]* 59
Tehran Views Recent Elections in Yemen *[Tehran International]* 59
President Lauds Information Dissemination *[Tehran Radio]* 60
'Victory-4' Naval Maneuvers Discussed *[Tehran International]* 60
* GARDUN Magazine To Be Published Again *[London KEYHAN 15 Apr]* 61

Maldives

National Mourning for Sri Lankan President *[AFP]* 61

Pakistan

Former Envoy Assails 'Selective' U.S. Policies *[THE NATION 30 Apr]* 61
Former Minister: Sharif Ouster Due to 'U.S. Conspiracies' *[NAWA-I-WAQT 29 Apr]* 62
Islamabad Comments on U.S. Document on Terrorism *[Islamabad Radio]* 62
Prime Minister Meets U.S. Ambassador, Denies Terrorism *[NAWA-I-WAQT 29 Apr]* 63
Bhutto Says U.S. Visit To Protect National Interests *[NAWA-I-WAQT 29 Apr]* 63
Government Making 'All Efforts' for Release of Envoys *[Islamabad Radio]* 63
Mazari: Borders With India Closely Watched *[THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER 30 Apr]* 64
Indian's Statement Said To Absolve Pakistan on Blasts *[Islamabad Radio]* 64
Prime Minister, Foreign Minister To Leave for Colombo 5 May *[Islamabad Radio]* 64
Defense Minister: Armed Forces 'on Full Alert' *[THE NATION 30 Apr]* 64
New Army Deputy Chief of Staff, ISI Chief Appointed *[THE NEWS 1 May]* 64
Sharif's Intelligence Chief Kicked Out of Military *[AFP]* 65
Ishaq Khan, Bhutto Meeting 'Inconclusive' *[THE NATION 30 Apr]* 65
All-Party Group Urges President To Dissolve Assemblies *[DAWN 3 May]* 66
Parliamentary Minister Rules Out Dissolving Assemblies *[DAWN 3 May]* 67
Premier Promises Fair Elections at Scheduled Time *[Islamabad Radio]* 67
Bhutto Expects Unfair Polls if Assemblies Not Dissolved *[DAWN 3 May]* 68
Nawaz Sharif Speaks of Need for 'New Political System' *[Islamabad Radio]* 68

Sri Lanka

Reportage on Investigation of Premadasa Assassination 68
Tamil Help Sought in Identifying Assassin *[AFP]* 68
Police Blame Assassination on LTTE *[AFP]* 69
Police Make First Arrest *[AFP]* 69
Troops Withdrawn From War Zone To Prevent Violence *[AFP]* 70
Tamils Flee Amid Fears of Reprisals *[AFP]* 70
Tamil Group Condemns Killing of Premadasa, Athulathmudali *[LANKAPUVATH]* 71
Parliament Meets on Presidential Election *[Delhi Radio]* 71
Provincial Council Polls To Be Held as Planned 17 May *[AFP]* 71
Acting President Rules Out Change in Economic Policies *[Colombo International]* 71
Slaying Said 'Serious Blow' to Economic Hopes *[AFP]* 71
Assassination Leaves Unprecedented Power Vacuum *[AFP]* 72
Assassination May Worsen Ethnic Divisions *[AFP]* 73
Reportage on Athulathmudali's Assassination 74
Key Witness Admits Lying *[AFP]* 74
UNP Leader Criticizes Remarks on Murder *[LANKAPUVATH]* 75
Reports on Tear Gas at Funeral Rejected *[LANKAPUVATH]* 75

Arab-Israeli Talks

Peace Negotiations in Washington Begin Second Week

Syria's al-'Allaf Views Progress

JN0305171693 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Washington, 3 May (SANA)—The Arab delegations to the peace talks resumed their meetings with the Israelis at the beginning of the second week of the current ninth round. The three meetings held in the first week of this round did not indicate anything new in the Israeli position on all tracks with the Arab delegations.

Discussions today between the Syrian delegation and the Israelis are due to continue on the Syrian document, which includes the principles of a comprehensive and just solution in the Middle East based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace.

Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, said before the meeting today that unless a change takes place in the Israeli position from that expressed in the first week, the round will be unproductive and disappointing on some tracks, and this is not in the interest of peace.

Al-'Allaf was asked if he expects that the current round will continue after the proposed date for its end in light of the delay that took place at its start. He replied that the original invitation has set 6 May as the date for ending the ninth round, and no proposal to change this date has been presented yet.

He added that the decision to extend the talks should be taken in light of the contacts between the Arab foreign ministers concerned with the peace process, and on the basis of the results that the negotiations realize.

He stressed that results that justify the extension decision should be realized, and said progress should be made on all tracks, but the results should not necessarily be equal.

Answering a reporter's question, al-'Allaf ruled out the possibility of asking the cosponsors of the peace talks to interfere at present more than they are doing now in order to advance the talks.

He said: What is important in this respect is the position of the parties because it is not easy to make progress even if the cosponsors interfere if the Israeli side itself is not serious and not prepared to allow the peace process to advance.

'Ashrawi Warns of Too Much Optimism

JN0305191493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 May 93

[Hisham Milhim dispatch from Washington]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The second week, and maybe the last in the ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks began in Washington today with an optimism fraught with caution on the Palestinian track and the expectation of disappointment on the Syrian track. [passage omitted]

While Palestinian delegation sources speak about the hope of achieving progress this week that will result in the announcement of an integrated deal that comprises achievements in the political and human rights fields, the official statements are somewhat reserved to avoid raising the hopes within the occupied territories. In an interview with Radio Monte Carlo, Palestinian Spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi cautioned against expressing too much optimism in spite of the importance of what was achieved in the first week. She said:

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording] We will work in a serious and intense manner to achieve progress, but one must not expect much, or expect a sudden change in the Israeli policy. [end recording]

Dr. 'Ashrawi said that the U.S. role has been effective in this round and that she hopes this role will remain unbiased and will continue to focus on the terms of reference of the peace conference. [passage omitted]

Jordan Not Negotiating for Palestinians

JN0305195893 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 May 93

[Kassab Samawi dispatch from Washington]

[Excerpts] Arab negotiators today entered the negotiating rooms at the U.S. State Department to start the second week of this round in a somewhat optimistic atmosphere following the initial good results achieved on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

The Palestinian negotiators in particular feel that their negotiations have not started in practice except at the end of last week when a series of confidence-building measures and new ideas relating to the structure of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations were announced.

Like in previous rounds, the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations this week swapped the time for their negotiating sessions. The Jordanian-Israeli negotiations will now be held in evening sessions starting at 2300 Amman time, 1600 Washington time.

[Begin Jordanian chief delegate 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali recording] We will set up various working groups to discuss topics on the agenda which we expect to be completed in the very near future. This of course requires much time and more experts. Therefore, the

process will be difficult, but as always, with hope and patience, God willing, it will be completed in a good way. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Jordanian chief delegate Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said the development that was achieved on the Palestinian track was a culmination of other developments that started since the Madrid conference, starting with Jordan's provision of an umbrella for the Palestinian brothers.

[Begin al-Majali recording] There were developments after Madrid. Israel was clearly insisting that Jordan should negotiate on behalf of Palestine. This idea is now finished and buried. Afterwards, Jordan was asked to put its signature on the provisional government or the transitional arrangements. Also here Jordan's position was decisive and the Israeli delegation is now convinced that this is out of question. [end recording]

'No Progress' Reported

TA0305191293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] No progress has been made in the peace talks in Washington. Our Washington correspondent Arye Golan reports that no progress was made in the talks held this evening with the Palestinians and with the Syrians. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, said upon emerging from the meeting that no breakthrough had been attained. Elyaqim Rubinstein said that the subcommittee on land affairs had held an in-depth discussion and that the issue of water would be discussed tomorrow. A debate on the living conditions in the territories was held this evening.

On the Syrian track, the two delegations persisted in their argument over Syria's demand for a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal. Another meeting is scheduled for this evening with the Jordanian delegation.

Palestinians Propose Joint Declaration

TA0305201293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] The Palestinian delegation proposed this evening to discuss the formulation of a joint declaration of principles with Israel. Our Washington correspondent Arye Golan reports that the proposal was raised in the Israeli-Palestinian working group dealing with the general concept of the self-government in the territories. The working group dealing with land and water issues agreed not to discuss the question of sovereignty at this stage of the negotiations but rather in the negotiations over the permanent arrangement in the territories. The Palestinian delegates once again raised the issue of the settlements and of Jerusalem.

Differences persisted in the Israeli-Syrian talks over the demand to get an a priori Israeli commitment to effect a full withdrawal.

Al-'Allaf Comments on 3 May Session

JN0305211793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, has stated that during today's session, which is the fourth in the current ninth round of talks, discussion of the Syrian document continued.

In reply to questions posed by reporters, al-'Allaf added: The discussions touched on aspects of no substance mentioned in the introductory paragraphs pertaining to the basic concepts enshrined in this document. However, as usual, the Israeli side demonstrated evasion when the discussions began to tackle Article 5, which concerns the basic foundations and steps that are necessary to achieve peace, foremost among which is complete withdrawal.

When asked what the first four articles of the document speak about, al-'Allaf said: The first four articles of the document speak of the general objectives, such as peace, continuing the negotiations as long as they are serious, the overall issue of security, and comprehensive peace; that is, the need for peace to be comprehensive.

In reply to a question on whether the Syrian delegation has submitted any new proposals on the nature of the peace Syria is offering, al-'Allaf said: The Syrian document contains all components of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace. This document calls for an honest implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and also for honoring the principle of exchanging land for peace.

Al-'Allaf added: Israel has not thus far subscribed to the most basic and most significant commitments enshrined in Resolution 242. What remains are merely details over which we cannot reach agreement before Israel subscribes to its basic commitments.

When asked about what the Israeli side says of withdrawal from the Golan, al-'Allaf said: They are making some ambiguous hints and giving some vague signs. They are speaking of a withdrawal, some withdrawal, a certain withdrawal. However, they have thus far failed to express any willingness to subscribe to the requirements dictated by the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of another's territory by war, and to complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

In reply to a question on whether the Syrian delegation has presented any new proposals in today's session of talks, al-'Allaf said: As usual, we presented the regular proposal; that is, the Israeli side must honor the bases of the peace process and commit itself to the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, particularly since Israel's failure to do so is the reason which has so far precluded progress in the talks. The reason for lack of progress has thus far been Israel's failure to make the same commitments made by all other parties when they said that they engaged themselves in the peace

process to ensure the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338 and honor the principle of exchanging land for peace.

Israeli Delegates on Palestinian, Syrian Talks

TA0405050993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 4 May 93

[Excerpt] A senior source in the Israeli delegation in Washington said this morning that real negotiations have begun with the Palestinians. The atmosphere in yesterday's talks was good and down to earth, and despite the gaps between the two sides, there is a readiness for serious negotiations and to try to bridge the differences. Yesterday the Palestinian delegation proposed discussing the drafting of a joint declaration of principles with Israel. The proposal was raised in the Israeli-Palestinian working group dealing with the general concept of the self-government in the territories.

On the Israeli-Syrian track, the dispute continues over the Syrian demand for an Israeli commitment to carry out a full withdrawal.

Our Washington correspondent Arye Golan reports on yesterday's deliberations:

[Begin recording] [Golan] After the Palestinians raised their new proposal to draft a joint declaration of principles, the working group on the self-government started its initial debate on some of the possible components of such a declaration, such as defining the aim of the negotiations, determining the name of the body that will run the Palestinian self-government and its size, and holding elections in the territories. In the working group on land and water, it was agreed that Israel and the Palestinians will not discuss sovereignty at this stage of the negotiations but in the discussions on the permanent settlement. In the working group on land, the Palestinians once again raised the issue of settlement and Jerusalem. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi summed up:

['Abd-al-Shafi, in English] We continue to discuss relevant issues in the two working groups, Arab land and water, and about the concepts. There are no breakthroughs; we shall continue the same thing tomorrow.

[Golan] The Israeli delegation talked about a good and down-to-earth atmosphere and a Palestinian and Israeli readiness to study the existing gaps and try to overcome them.

[Chief delegate Elyaqim Rubinstein] It was a good discussion. I do not want to be conclusive, but it definitely dealt seriously and deeply with the issues discussed. We must go on working to achieve results and agreements.

[Golan] On the Syrian track, the dispute continues over Damascus' demand for an a priori commitment on a full withdrawal.

[Chief delegate Itamar Rabinovich] Today, we dealt once again with the first four clauses of the text of the joint declaration. We did not reach agreement on some points, but we agreed to shelve them for the time being, until we achieve a breakthrough on the main issue, and then return to them. Most of the text is now acceptable to both sides, and the deliberations were usually pleasant and fruitful. We got to Article 5, which is the problematic one in which the questions of peace and withdrawal are discussed and on which we have not managed to come to some agreement for several months. We tried two tactical moves today, which from our viewpoint were aimed at enabling the Syrians to move closer to us, but they did not accept them. There was an edifying discussion on those questions and the approaches by both states, but no progress was made. [passage omitted] [end recording]

No Progress Reported in Night Sessions

JN0405065493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 4 May 93

[Excerpt] New working sessions of Arab-Israeli peace talks were held in Washington last night. While the Palestinian-Israeli working groups began their meetings, reports did not indicate any progress. There was also no progress reported on the other negotiating tracks. More details in the following report.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral peace talks, last night said that the Palestinian and Israeli sides are working seriously. However, at the end of a meeting between the two sides which lasted for more than two hours, he said that there were no breakthroughs in the negotiations. He said the talks were held within the framework of two working groups formed last week to define the concept of Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories and to discuss both the land and water issues. A third working group specialized in human rights in the occupied territories met later.

Asked how long the ninth round of negotiations will last, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that he does not know yet, and that a decision on this will be made today during a meeting of the Arab chief delegates. Sources within the Palestinian delegation said that the negotiations may be extended for a third week if tangible results are made from now until Thursday, 6 May.

For his part, Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli negotiating team with the Syrians, said that he proposed to the negotiators extending the negotiations until the end of next week. The Syrians will announce their stand this week.

On the level of Syrian-Israeli talks held last night, Rabinovich and Syrian chief delegate Muwaffaq al-'Allaf noted the absence of any progress on the issue of the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. Al-'Allaf said that the talks are still obstructed by the Golan issue.

As for the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations, Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, said that the two

sides began to discuss tangible issues yesterday. However, the same as his Israeli counterpart Uri Lubrani, he refused to give any clarification.

The working session on the Jordanian-Israeli track lasted until a late hour last night. [passage omitted]

IDF Withdrawal From S. Lebanon Discussed

TA0405090593 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 4 May 93 p 5

[Report by Amnon Barzilay and Sari'el Shani in Washington]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Surprising progress was made yesterday in the talks with the Lebanese delegation. The sides began to discuss arrangements Lebanon can offer Israel in order to enable the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to withdraw from the security zone. The Israeli delegation said that Lebanon hinted that if the IDF withdraws from the security zone, its government will prevent terrorist actions from its soil.

The Israeli delegation, headed by Uri Lubrani, made clear in the deliberations that Israel does not have any interest in remaining on Lebanese soil. Israel nevertheless announced it would not be prepared to withdraw without an assurance that Lebanon has the ability and readiness to control Hizballah actions.

Political sources in Jerusalem said they were surprised by the progress and that despite its dependence on Syria, the Lebanese delegation is showing independence. They said that since the appointment of al-Hariri as prime minister, the Lebanese delegation no longer appears to be a puppet. [passage omitted]

Lebanon's Shammas Urges No Comment

NC0405062493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] After the meeting of the Lebanese and Israeli delegations at the fourth session yesterday, Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, said the talks dealt with substantial issues, but he would not like to comment publicly on what they were. He said the negotiations are complicated and any position declared beforehand might not serve the ongoing, delicate negotiating process. He voiced the hope that the Israelis will also refrain from commenting publicly on the talks.

Islamic Affairs

Further Reportage on End of ICO Conference

Libya Urges Open Airspace

LD3004150693 Tripoli JANA in English 1424 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Karachi, al-Tayir [April] 30, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation asked the Islamic Conference Organisation [ICO] to open the airspace between the Great Jamahariyah and the Hijaz region in Saudi Arabia, to enable Libyan pilgrims to perform their hajj duty.

During a press conference in Karachi yesterday, 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir said that the United States is supposed to be listening to the advice of its allies and friends in the area—namely the member states of the Islamic Conference Organization, who appreciate this demand.

He added that the ban on aircraft transporting the Libyan pilgrims is a violation of the teachings of the holy Koran and indicated that between 20-25,000 Libyans cannot perform the hajj duties this year due to the ban on air travel imposed on the Great Jamahariyah.

Saudi Foreign Minister on Conference

LD3004155093 Riyadh SPA in English 1239 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Karachi, April 30, SPA—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has described the results of the recently concluded 21st conference of the Organisation of Islamic Conference's [ICO] foreign ministers as "good" specially those related to important and key issues on the agenda.

In a statement to SPA in Karachi yesterday, Prince Sa'ud said the conference working sessions have succeeded in dealing with most important topics, specially the Bosnian issue which was receiving special attention from Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

"King Fahd, since he gave his directives for the holding of an extraordinary meeting for discussing the Bosnian situation in Jeddah, has been closely following this issue and supporting it materially," Prince Sa'ud said.

The Kingdom this week donated US dlrs 20 million to Bosnia.

Prince Sa'ud said the 21st conference paid special attention to Bosnia issue and its decisions have been in harmoney with the calls made by the extraordinary meeting of Jeddah which demanded the lifting of an arms embargo on the Bosnians.

Prince Sa'ud said the conference has discussed among other topics the Palestinian issue and the effects of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The conference has once again urged Iraq to implement the UN Security Council resolutions and the ceasefire agreement.

Concerning the Palestinian issue, the conference has unanimously backed the Arab stand in the current peace talks and hoped that the negotiations would lead to tangible results and a breakthrough in the previous deadlock, Prince Sa'ud said.

Prince Sa'ud urged Israel to take some initiatives in order to create a conducive atmosphere for the return of deportees and lifting of its iron fist in the occupied territories.

The conference has also dealt with Kashmir and the Muslim minorities problems, Prince Sa'ud said.

Jordan's Foreign Minister on Meeting

LD3004155293 Tehran IRNA in English 1345 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Karachi, April 30, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati would visit Jordan next summer, Jordan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Kamil Abu-Jabir told IRNA here Thursday.

Abu-Jabir, speaking on the closing day of the 21st meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO], termed Amman-Tehran ties as "very good."

He expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the Karachi meet, adding that crucial issues facing the Muslim world were discussed by the gathering.

The Jordanian official further noted that the U.N. secretary general should play an effective role in the enforcement of the resolutions adopted by the OIC meeting.

As for the Palestinian issue, he said that both Arab states and the Muslim world should exert pressure on Israel and convince it over the return of the exiled Palestinians to their homeland.

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah Representative Hails Return of Deportees

NC0405100193 Cairo MENA in English 0818 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Cairo, May 4 (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, representative of Fatah Movement here, today said allowing a number of the old Palestinian deportees to return to their homes in the occupied lands was a right step on the road towards repatriation of all Palestinians.

In an exclusive interview with MENA al-Qidrah said the return of the Palestinian deportees to their homes was their legitimate right. All UN Security Council resolutions on the repatriation of deported Palestinians, must be implemented, he added. Since 1967 and until recently Israel used to refuse to implement these resolutions, he said, adding that it was high time that Israel invokes these international resolutions.

PLO's al-Najjab Denies Withdrawal From Talks Team

JN3004125493 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Apr 93 p 20

[By Musa Hawamdah]

[Text] Sulayman al-Najjab, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has denied reports about his withdrawal from the committee in charge of coordination between the PLO and the negotiating Palestinian delegation. Al-Najjab told AL-DUSTUR that only the Palestinian People's Party (a formerly Communist party), to which al-Najjab belongs, decided to suspend the participation of its representative in the ninth round of negotiations in Washington. This is because the obstacles which prevent members of the party from participating still exist.

Commenting on the obstacles to the participation of members of the Palestinian People's Party, al-Najjab said: The obstacles are originally based on Israel's noncompliance with international legitimacy. He stressed the need to stop Israel's attempts to evade this legitimacy. This is cleary demonstrated by its stand on Resolution 799, stipulating the return of deportees, and on Resolutions 242 and 338, which are the bases for the current political process and which apply to the Palestinian track in the transitional and final stages.

Al-Najjab refused to comment on the proceedings of the current negotiations. He said he does not have enough information about what is going on at the negotiating table so far.

On the return of 30 deportees, including some members of Palestinian Communist Party and on the non return of Hamas deportees, al-Najjab, who was deported on 28 February 1974, said that the great crime committed by Israel against 400 deportees reopened the file on deportation practiced by Israel against the Palestinian people since the first days of the occupation. He added: The UN Security Council issued a number of resolutions, rejecting the Israeli deportation act and calling for the return of deportees. The last of these resolutions is Resolution 799. He said: I do not think that dividing the deportees into old and new ones or dividing them on a political basis will serve the issue of deportees and that of their inalienable right to return to their homeland. The return of those 30 deportees does not mean abandoning efforts to immediately return all deportees and to implement Resolution 799.

On the Palestinian-Israeli difference over the nature of autonomy, which Israel considers a power-sharing basis while the Palestinian delegation considers it a political basis, al-Najjab said: Before talking about territory, administration, or employment, Israel is asked to basically recognize that this territory is an occupied Palestinian territory, including Jeruselem, and that it cannot be seized by force as stipulated by international principles.

Freedom Defense Leader Rejects al-Husayni Line

PM0405103293 Milan EUROPEO in Italian 30 Apr 93 p 54

[Interview with Freedom Defense Institute leader 'Ali Abu-Hilal by Alberto Rosselli; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Abu-Hilal] Our viewpoint is simple. [Palestinian peace negotiator] al-Husayni and his delegation do not represent the Palestinian people's will. The platform on which the meetings held during the latest Madrid encounter were based do not convince us. Al-Husayni and [Palestinian spokeswoman] 'Ashrawi were too docile and shortsighted. We believe that peace must not be achieved by bowing to the dictates of Tel Aviv and Washington but by negotiating on a perfectly level playing field.

[Rosselli] If you were admitted to the negotiations, what would you propose?

[Abu-Hilal] First of all, we would force the Rabin government to respect the UN resolution condemning Israel for deporting 400 of our brothers to Lebanon; then we would impose the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli Army from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank as a preliminary condition.

[Rosselli] Do you not think that is an exaggerated request? Faysal al-Husayni has not rejected Rabin's offer of imminent and initial administrative autonomy.

[Abu-Hilal] Al-Husayni is, in effect, playing the Israelis' game and not safeguarding the rights of those Palestinians living inside and outside Israel's borders. We want an official delegation representing all Palestinians, including Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese Palestinians.

[Rosselli] In other words, Israel should recognize your delegation as being that of an independent government.

[Abu-Hilal] Exactly. Even if we are not yet that on paper, we do represent an actual state which is already recognized in many countries. Israel and the United States must acknowledge our existence before it is too late. Otherwise armed conflict will be inevitable.

Algeria

Security Forces Kill, Arrest 'Terrorists' in Blida, Setif

LD0405082393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] The trial continues in the special judicial council in Oran of 25 people, 15 of whom are on the run, accused of conspiring against the security of the state, its authority, the formation of armed groups, and the possession and manufacturing of explosives. Concerning the activities of the security forces, we record the dismantling of a terrorist group, and the intervention of a special unit from the National People's Army. The details are with Hizieh Haidab.

[Haidab] According to the National Gendarmerie command statement, yesterday's intervention of the National People's Army's special unit resulted in killing nine terrorists in Boufarik, Blida Province, and the seizure of quantities of weapons and military ammunition. The security services in Setif Province succeeded in dismantling an eight-man group which was planning terrorist operations against the security men and state policemen. According to our correspondent on the spot, the investigations of the security men helped them to obtain evidence for convicting this group. Criminal plans for counting and determining those targeted for assassination were found in the possession of its members, who had also undergone training sessions in the martial arts.

Still in the security situation, according to the national television, the judicial services of Blida Province have arrested 20 persons for forming a terrorist group involved in burglaries, fraud, and the possession of weapons. Significant amounts of dinars and hard currencies were found with its members. Also from Blida, sources close to the province's security indicated that a former member of Bouinan municipality was the day before yesterday found shot in Saada forest near Souma. The victim is Belkeis Ammar, a moudjahid aged 61 years and father of nine children.

FIS Leader Stands Trial Over 'Seditious' Leaflets

LD0405000393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 3 May 93

[Excerpt] Charged with the possession and distribution of seditious leaflets, Ali Belhadj [number two in Islamic Salvation Front, FIS], who was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment, will stand trial in a special court.

The news came in a statement by the military prosecutor for Blida court, who added that the military prosecution for Blida has decided to summon Ali Belhadj as a witness in the trial of lawyer Touati, who is accused of taking out a seditious leaflet signed by Belhadj from the military prison in Blida.

Ali Belhadj falls under articles one and four of the antiterrorism law after he signed a leaflet calling for the assassination of civilian personalities, among them Hafid Senhadri, who was assassinated last April.

The military prosecution had stated at the opening of the trial that the military court has no jurisdiction, arguing that the incident charged against the defendant occurred in Algiers, the capital. [passage omitted: 22 lawyers defend lawyer who has been in preventive jail since February 2 on charges of possessing and distributing leaflets; three-year sentence was passed this evening against him]

FIS Lawyer Sentenced for Leaflet

LD0405075293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 May 93

[Excerpt] The Blida military court late last night passed a three-year effective imprisonment sentence on Touati Brahim, one of the defense lawyers for the leaders of the banned Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. The lawyer, Touati Brahim, is accused of leaking a seditious leaflet signed by Ali Belhadj, one of the leaders of the banned FIS who has been sentenced to 12 years in prison.

The facts of the case go back to last 16 December after Toauti visited his client in the military prison in Blida. On 2 February the accused was put under preventive detention and accused of possessing and distributing a leaflet which could infringe upon national interests. [passage omitted]

FLN Leader on Promoting Dialogue With Higher State Council

LD0305155493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Following the latest meeting between the National Liberation Front [FLN] delegation and the Higher State Council [HSC] headed by Ali Kafi, at which the two sides condemned political and security terrorism, FLN Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri held a news conference which was attended by our radio correspondent, Mourad Madaoui:

[Madaoui] The continuation of the dialogue requires organizing, broadening, and deepening it in order to reach a national reconciliation which could be accepted and adopted by the people. This was emphasized by Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri at the news conference which he held this morning at the party headquarters, attended by the national and international correspondents.

The FLN secretary general pointed out that the subject of the news conference was the second meeting between his party and the HSC. Mr. Mehri emphasized that during the meeting and within the context of its commission, the FLN central committee delegation explained in detail the FLN proposals and expressed its opinion on the agenda proposed by the HSC and on the method by which the dialogue should continue.

During the news conference, Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri emphasized that the delegation recalled some of the subjects which the FLN proposed for the dialogue, including putting an end to the chain of violence, which the FLN rejects as a means for political action, and at the same time trying various political methods to free the country of this chain and also to return to constitutional life.

Furthermore, the FLN secretary general emphasized the necessity of agreeing a common comprehensive ground in which solutions are compatible and complement each other, a common ground that opens clear horizons for the people and encourages them to accept and adopt it.

Mr. Mehri stressed that his party calls for ending the transitional stage by the end of 1993, so as to start after that the stage of returning to normality. He added that he does not support exchanging one transitional stage for another, but the parties in the dialogue should agree on the contents and mechanisms of the stage of returning to normality. Hence the course in which the HSC proceeds is not controlled in a compulsory way, but depends on the contents of the agreement and on providing suitable conditions.

In reply to a question on the FLN concept of widening the dialogue, Mr. Mehri emphasized that the dialogue should include economic issues, because the economic challenges facing Algeria are no smallers than the political and constitutional ones.

Egypt

Al-Baz Optimistic Over Mideast Peace Talks, Bosnia

NC0405133593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 May (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's Office for Political Affairs, has expressed his belief that the current opportunity is good to achieve peace in the Middle East. He said: I believe we are now closer to peace than at any time before, particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track which has seen noticeable progress.

In a statement to MENA, he said: If things continue in this direction in the next few weeks, we look forward to achieving our hope and goal to have accords signed in principle between Israel and the Palestinian, Jordanian, and Syrian delegations and (?to achieve) Israel's immediate, unconditional withdrawal from Lebanon in implementation of Security Council Resolution 425. The legal basis for [Israel's] negotiations with all other sides, he added, is governed by Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Dr. al-Baz pointed out that there is realistic hope that agreements in principle could be concluded within a period of not more than 10 weeks and that before the end of this year, full [kamilah] agreements could be signed. This, he added, would signal a breakthrough in the crisis and put the Middle East problem on the actual road toward a just and comprehensive solution. Al-Baz added: We are in touch with all parties, particularly the Arab parties, Israel, and the cosponsors of the peace conference, noting that the United States is playing an active role and exerting strenuous efforts. He added: We hope that these endeavors will lead us to the goal to which we all aspire.

On the deteriorating situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, al-Baz said: We view with satisfaction the change that took place in the past few days in the position of the West, the United States, and Germany, a position that is playing a primary role in shaping up Europe's efforts to resolve this problem. He expressed his belief that the situation no longer permits any delay or postponement. He added: Not only must the Serbs accept the Vance-Owen peace plan, but they must also implement it. Failing this, he added, there will need to be decisive intervention to straighten things out. This is so because the world cannot tolerate or accept the continuation of the current massacres for no reason, unless the question of ethnic cleansing still governs the actions of the Serbian leaders in this region, and we do not know how close these leaders are to Serbia and Montenegro. Al-Baz stressed that the situation requires action [words indistinct]. Thus, we welcome the recent U.S.-European stand and believe it will open the way to ending this issue before the Muslim people in Bosnia-Herzegovina are finished off.

On German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel's visit to Egypt, which will begin tomorrow, al-Baz stressed that Egyptian-German relations are deep-rooted and exemplary. He added: We have given strong momentum to these relations, which flourished in the past few years during the term of President Husni Mubarak and Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Al-Baz added: We are pleased that a new element in bilateral relations has appeared, namely, the interest by German businessmen and major industrial, economic, and commercial institutions in our relations. We believe that this will enrich the future of bilateral cooperation because it opens wide horizons for Egyptian businessmen, whether in the private or public sector, to benefit from German expertise, to acquire modern technology, and to establish joint ventures inside and outside Egypt. We hope that Egyptian-German relations will continue to flourish, he added.

Pakistan Orders Deportation of Terrorists; Names Given

NC0405102893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 May (MENA)—The Abu Dhabi-based newspaper AL-ITTIHAD today reports that following coordination and consultations with Pakistan and the United States, Egypt has received a list of names of 265 members of al-Jihad Organization and the Promotion of Virtue and the Hesitation and Confirmation

groups. These members participated in liberating Afghanistan and later moved to Pakistan, where they received intense military training before carrying out sabotage in Egypt.

Citing a responsible security source, the paper said the Pakistani Government has issued instructions to arrest and deport Egyptian terrorists to Egypt and has distributed their photos at all ports and airports.

Opposition Figure Says Iran 'Exporting Extremism'

NC0405081393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0611 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 May (MENA)—Mohammad Sa'id Mohaddesin, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the National Council of Iranian Resistance, has revealed that the Iranian regime's latest policy focuses on exporting extremism to Egypt as a key to controlling the Middle East.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM today, he said the Iranian regime has worked to cooperate with extremist forces in Egypt to achieve this goal in addition to using Sudanese territory as a center for training and sending terrorists to the North African countries, primarily Egypt.

He said U.S. sources affirm the presence of 10 terrorist training camps in Sudan established in cooperation with Iran.

He called for expelling Iran from the Islamic Conference Organization now that its practices have revealed it contradicts Islam and its teachings.

Success of Sudan's Abuja Conference Viewed

NC0205200493 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] A Foreign Ministry source has said that Egypt hopes that the second round of the Sudanese reconciliation conference in Abuja will reach positive results.

The source said that Egypt's position on the issue of south Sudan is guided by firm principles. Egypt calls for preserving Sudan's territorial integrity and sovereignty. The Egyptian position, the source said, transcends the problems stirred by the current regime in Khartoum and takes into account the interests of Sudan and its brotherly people—interests that for Egypt overshadow all the existing differences.

Musa Leaves for Austria Talks With IAEA Head

NC0205185193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1106 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 2 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo for Austria this afternoon on a two-day visit. During his visit, he will meet with Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock to discuss peace in the region and developments relating to Bosnia-Herzegovina. He also will meet with Chancellor Franz Vranitzky and Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

In answer to a question on whether he will discuss nuclear radiation leaks from Israel's Dimona reactor in the Negev Desert with the IAEA director, Musa said: The talks will deal with all topics relating to this subject.

Commenting on the current ninth round of Arab-Israeli talks in Washington, Musa said: They are proceeding well. The discussions have begun to tackle substantive matters, something for which we have been calling. He added that the ninth round may be productive.

Musa said he will invite the Austrian president to visit Cairo. He also said he will stop over in Greece for talks with Greek officials if time permits.

Interior Minister Says No Dialogue With Terrorists

NC0405095493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0828 GMT 4 May 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 4 May (MENA)—People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur said the program of action proposed by President Husni Mubarak in his recent Labor Day speech represents Mubarak's thinking in the next stage. [passage omitted]

He was speaking at the National Democratic Party [NDP] Political Club meeting last night, which was attended by the Consultative Council speaker; the ministers of transport and communications, education, manpower and vocational training, economy, and interior; minister of state for military production; and the minister of justice. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi stressed his ministry's commitment to law and legitimacy and its rejection of haphazard measures.

At the club, the interior minister denied his ministry intended to enlarge the field of suspects, which means there will be no more random arrests. He emphasized the Interior Ministry's eagerness to build a strong bridge between the people and the security authorities to ensure the public's cooperation in defending their security. He said there will be no dialogue with the perpetrators of terrorist crimes and noted that such a dialogue is entrusted to the clergy to enlighten misled youths with true religious facts. [passage omitted]

Differences Reported Among Islamic Group Leadership

NC0305115993 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 28 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Excerpt] The next few days are expected to reveal important events and information relating to the security confrontation of terrorism and the extremist groups' organizational structure, especially since one of these

groups has succeeded in forestalling the efforts by the committee that came to be known as "the mediation committee."

AL-AHALI has learned that the arrest of two groups in al-Daqahliyah and al-Qalyubiyah, including the nine members suspected of involvement in the assassination attempt against the information minister and the assassination of Dr. Faraj Fudah, has aborted other arrangements by the suspects to assassinate senior officials and public figures. During the preliminary investigation, the suspects made very important confessions, which have been blanketed by the authorities. Confirmed information indicates that the suspects planned incidents in Cairo, Asyut, al-Fayyum, al-Daqahliyah, and al- Qalyubiyah. Another local group was responsible for operations in Aswan and Qina.

Information confirms that Ashraf al-Sayyid Ibrahim (a suspect in the al-Sharif and Fudah operations) made a detailed confession, revealing that he traveled to Libya and from there to Sudan and Afghanistan after assassinating Dr. Fudah. The suspect took the same route back to the country. Ibrahim also revealed that Tal'at Humam, who lives in Peshawar, Pakistan, left the country and returned along the same route, using false identification cards and passports. An employee in the civil registration bureau in al-Santah, al-Gharbiyah Governorate, was arrested two days ago on charges of forging identification cards for terrorists.

More than one official agency recently monitored discord within extremist ranks, particularly within the "Islamic Group," the biggest and most active extremist group. One agency traced this discord to a disagreement emerging among group leaders on the mediation by a group of religious scholars and writers who called themselves "the third category."

Another agency traced the discord to other differences that emerged before mediation between the military wing that set out from Asyut and the call [al-da'wah] wing stationed in al-Minya Governorate. The differences also existed between the inner leadership represented by Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani, the second defendant in the case of the assassination of [late People's Assembly Speaker] Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, and the outer leadership that includes Ayman al-Zawahiri, Muhammad Shawqi al-Islambuli, Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim, who was recently arrested in Shubra al-Khaymah, and Tal'at Humam. They are all stationed in Peshawar, Pakistan.

The agencies believe it is likely that the consultations held to reunite the "Islamic Group" and "al-Jihad" organizations were among the reasons that aggravated differences within the group. Some members objected to the terms of that unity and believed the al- Jihad leaders' demand to share the seats of the proposed united shura council equally is exaggerated.

The Islamic Group recently issued conflicting statements on its responsibility for recent terrorist operations, notably, the Wadi al-Nil cafe and Egyptian museum explosions. Some of these statements claim the Islamic Group is responsible, while others deny it.

Following the dismissal [as published] of 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, the group's branch in Asyut distributed a statement welcoming the new interior minister, while the group's leadership abroad (in Peshawar) issued a statement denouncing him.

While the inner leadership welcomed mediation, the outer leadership issued a statement denouncing the idea and rejecting it categorically, asserting that it is "the sole legitimate representative of the Islamic movement." Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al- Rahman remained silent, although he has issued a statement threatening to escalate violence in Egypt. [passage omitted]

Two Volunteers in Afghan Resistance Arrested at Airport

NC3004161293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA)—Security forces at Cairo International Airport today arrested two Egyptians who had volunteered with the Afghan mujahidin. They were detained upon their arrival from Peshawar aboard an Egyptian airliner arriving via Sanaa. Airport security personnel had received information about the arrival of a number of Egyptians who had joined the Afghan resistance forces. They were to arrive on board an Egyptian airliner coming from Pakistan via Manama and Sanaa.

The two detainees are Hasan Ahmad Shihatah and al-Sa'id Muhammad Hasan. They left Egypt for Afghanistan 18 months ago and joined the Afghan resistance forces in Peshawar. Pakistani authorities arrested the two Egyptian citizens 10 days ago and expelled them along with their wives and 10 children. Ten suitcases belonging to them have not arrived, and they carried only two pieces of hand luggage containing a number of cassettes containing religious programs and several religious publications and books. Airport security personnel seized these books and cassettes and took the detainees to the State Security Intelligence General Department under strict security for interrogation. Their wives and children were released.

Security Forces Arrest Terrorist in al-Fayyum

NC0205062193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1828 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Al-Fayyum, 1 May (MENA)—A member of the al-Shawqiyun group was injured today in the village of Kahk Bahri in Ibshaway in the al-Fayyum Governorate while he was being hunted down by a police force. Al-Shawqiyun member 'Abd-al-Tawwab 'Abd-al-Maqsud, who had leaflets inciting hatred of the regime, fired at the security force when its members surrounded him. He tried to escape but the security forces fired at him, injuring him in the mouth. He was

taken to the hospital. Ibshaway prosecution office began interrogation under prosecution director Khalid al-Rubi.

Tourism Minister Notes 13-Percent Drop in Tourism

NC0305173393 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 29 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by Tal'at al-Tarabishi]

[Text] Tourism Minister Fu'ad Sultan has affirmed that tourism in the past three months dropped by 13 percent, and the number of nights tourists spend in Egypt dropped by 30 percent. The minister mentioned in his speech at an international conference at al-Mansurah University an Interpol report confirming that Egypt is the safest and most secure country in the world.

Libya

Saudis To Mediate for Pilgrims To Visit Mecca

LD0305122793 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Riyadh, 3 May (JANA)—The Saudi authorities confirmed that they are prepared to accept Libyan pilgrims who obtain permission from New York.

They also confirmed through a Saudi spokesman that last year they requested permission on behalf of the Libyans through the New York headquarters of a committee formed by three Christian states and chaired by Hungary.

As is known, Libyan pilgrims refused to go to Mecca by the permission of Christian states. Saudi Arabia is prepared this year to apply for permission on their behalf from the Christian states and from New York so that they can perform the pilgrimage to the Holy House of God in Mecca.

Commentary Says Mecca Should Remain Neutral

LD0305122293 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The 21st Islamic Conference, held in Karachi over the past two days, agreed unanimously that the coercive measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah as a result of the invalid Resolution 748 have directly affected one of Islam's foundations, namely the right to perform the religious duty of hajj and the minor pilgrimage in comfortable conditions and with ease.

Observers who closely followed the conference noted that the crisis resulting from involving Mecca in international politics was the most serious issue which faced the conference and prevailed over its proceedings since it appeared that on the one hand Mecca is regarded as being controlled by a political system while, on the other hand, it is God's house which should not be subjected to any other influences. It also became clear that this situation was obstructing the hajj thus highlighting the need to put Mecca either under a collective Islamic administration or outside all political interactions and any ban which falls within the framework of these interactions.

The discussion of this matter at the conference revealed that until one of these two options is chosen Saudi Arabia must be a state like the Vatican which has nothing to do with political matters, or Mecca and the prophet's tomb should be run by the Muslim community. Until this is achieved Mecca and Madina should remain neutral and should not be included in any ban or political interactions. [passage omitted]

This resolution caused astonishment bordering on derision since it tries to legalize the principle of making the Muslim hajj conditional on the approval of bodies or persons having nothing to do with Islam. This is totally unacceptable. It is even a sin and a blasphemy; and none of us can go to God's house for the hajj on the basis of a request made to New York where a Christian body deigns to allow Muslims to perform their religious rites.

The wording of this resolution, with its contents, has made it more akin to a farce which will be met with derision and disapproval by the Muslims who are concerned with their religion and with the sanctity of their faith. Therefore we also wonder what freedom and dignity the conference's resolution is talking about if it wants every Libyan plane and every Libyan pilgrim to obtain permission from New York and the approval of the Christian states to go to holy Mecca.

This leads us to reaffirm that Holy Mecca should not be embroiled in the international political battlefield. On the contrary, Mecca should remain neutral and open to Muslims who should not, for their part, obtain anybody's permission to perform their religious rites and visit God's holy house.

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Students in al-Zintan

LD0205221393

[Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 2000 GMT on 2 May carries a 64-minute recorded speech by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to university students in al-Zintan; the date of the speech is not given.

Al-Qadhdhafi begins by discussing the importance of universities to civilization. He discusses life in the cities and the relationship between universities and the cities, particularly because al-Zintan and its university are in the desert.

He says that big cities were created by the colonialists, and the new generation should learn that the cities are not good for mankind. He says the backward people are the ones who want fancy houses and fancy clothes, while

they are unable to manufacture them. He says that Libyans should be socially progressive.

Al-Qadhdhafi remarks that he likes the town and the fact that it is very well-preserved. He adds that this only proves that the inhabitants of the town are more socially advanced than the inhabitants of the cities. He says that people who live in small towns are happier than those who live in big cities.

Al-Qadhdhafi says that city dwellers have learned the wrong social attitudes. He says that life in the cities is much more expensive than life in small towns; the colonialists exploit the problems of cities in order to destroy societies. He adds that this is what happened in Eastern Europe, in the Soviet Union, and in Algeria. He says that this is how the extremists pushed the people of Algeria into extremist movements, and this is what is happening in Egypt. He says that the crowds who are suffering in big cities can be easily exploited.

Al-Qadhdhafi says that the extremist movements are a conspiracy against the Arab world, and the students must be alert in order to defeat this conspiracy. He adds that they are all religious, they are all Muslims, they all pray five times a day and fast at Ramadan.

The Libyan leader then remarks that the people coming with heretical doctrines—all the leaders of these extremist movements—are not in the Arab world; they live in the West. He adds that the West introduced these movements in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh; then they moved to the Arab world. He says that if you ask any member of an extremist group about who taught him his beliefs—and follow the line of those who taught him—it will definitely lead to outside the Arab world. Al-Qadhdhafi asks if Arabs need non-Arabs to teach them Islam.

Al-Qadhdhafi then says that the colonialists are supporting these extremist movements and are financing them; the Americans are supporting these movements and the conspiracy against Libya. He then adds that they should not believe superstition. He adds that people are fooled into believing superstitions because of the problems in the cities.

On the other hand, al-Qadhdhafi says, city dwellers only imitate the West: they listen to foreign music that does not mean anything to them; they look for anything that the westerners are doing and do it without thinking. Al-Qadhdhafi says that this is also bad.

He comments that there are always agents of the enemy within their ranks; the records after the 1986 raid have proved this. He says there is a book that says that the Americans were divided over whether or note to inform their agents in Tripoli before the raid. He tells the students that the book has been translated into Arabic, and they can read it.

Al-Qadhdhafi says that all these extremist groups, such as al-Takfir wa al-Hijrah and the Muslim Brothers, are conspiracies, and they are all enemy agents. If the youth are alert and have strong character, he adds, then they will not be recruited by the enemy and will not be fooled by superstitions.

He says again that city life is the origin of all problems and all disasters in the Third World. He tells the students they should stay away from big cities. He says that if you have two writers—one living in a big city and another living in a small town—you will find that the city writer is shallow and stupid, while the small town writer has clear and penetrating vision. He says that this is why the city dwellers could be easy prey to deception and superstition.

Al-Qadhdhafi says that they will be thrown back into the dark ages if the extremists succeed; they will be where Europe was in the Middle Ages when the church was controlling life. He says the colonialists are now punishing Yugoslavia for establishing the Nonaligned Movement. In Yugoslavia, he says, enemy agents are creating different political parties and are fighting each other.

The Libyan leader says that America stops the Libyan students from studying space science and nuclear science, but it supports the extremist movements.

Al-Qadhdhafi concludes his speech by saying: "In my opinion, as far as sabotaging Islam or Pan-Arabism is concerned, there should be no compromise or leniency. If you know anyone who is one of these heretics, then he should be killed and liquidated exactly like a dog—without trial. Do not be afraid. Nobody will arrest you or put you on trial if you kill a heretic.

"They are killing us as infidels in all the countries of the Arab world without trial. We consider them heretics, and we should kill them without trial.

"The heretic can be found thrown away with the word heretic written on him. That is it. Even if his family came and cried and went around complaining, why did you not bring him up properly? Why did you bring him up with a weak character to follow blindly the footsteps of someone in Afghanistan and then come to me trying to deceive me? Whose fault is it? It is the fault of his family, who did not teach him dignity and allowed him to belong to a movement of bad reputation, whose members can only be dirty and of bad character.

"The family should be ashamed. If a family is discovered to have a heretic member, then it should bow its heads with shame before the people. This means that it is a bad family, because anyone who belongs to such a movement is a man or a woman of bad reputation.

"March forward, and may the struggle continue."

Morocco

King Hassan Receives Iraq's Envoy al-Tikriti

JN0405084993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Morocco's King Hassan received in Rabat yesterday Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, political adviser of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. It is believed the Iraqi official is seeking Morocco's mediation to lift the comprehensive embargo imposed on Iraq since the Gulf war.

Sudan

Update on Second Abuja Peace Talks

EA0205150293 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] The peace talks between the government delegation, led by Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, and Garang's rebel faction resume 3 May in Abuja.

Dr. 'Ali al-Haj Muhammad, the official spokesman of the government delegation, said that in the previous talks the government delegation concentrated on the issue of federalism. He stressed the rejection of confederalism proposed by the rebel movement. He said that the talks between the two sides were proceeding according to the agendas and programs on which agreement had been reached during the preliminary talks.

Dr. Muhammad said that placing federalism on the table for discussion was the only solution to the problem of the south, despite the allegations of the rebel movement that it had proved a failure. He said: We are working towards establishing sufficient guarantees to ensure the application of federalism in Sudan.

The official government spokesman at the talks said that the government, for its part, had put forward all its options to solve the problem, but the rebel positions continued to be vague because it was negotiating on the basis of other people's views and attempting to impose secularism on the negotiating table, in spite of the fact that Islamic law was not in effect at all when the rebellion began.

He said that Sudan's agreement not to apply the shari'ah in the south contained many concessions because there were many southern Muslims who should have the right to use these laws in litigation. He said: We should discuss basic issues which led to the rebellion in order to solve them. Islamic law has never been one of the causes of the rebellion.

Garang Not To Join Delegation

AB0205215293 Paris AFP in French 1844 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Abuja, 2 May (AFP)—Colonel John Garang, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, (SPLA) will not join his delegation at the current Abuja negotiations with the Khartoum government, unless his presence is "specifically required" by the Nigerian mediators. This was disclosed today to AFP by the spokesman of the southern Sudan rebels.

Nhial Deng Nhial gave this clarification just before the start of separate consultations this weekend between the Nigerian mediators and the two delegations taking part in the Abuja II negotiations which are expected to resume tomorrow.

The SPLA had repeated its stand for a confederation which it had earlier made during the Abuja I meeting in June 1992. In return, the government had proposed a federal system copying on the Nigerian example. The Nigerian Government also last year made a similar proposal.

Col. Garang has never promised the Nigerian authorities and the Khartoum government that he will personally attend the Abuja II negotiations, according to the spokesman Mr. Nhial Deng Nhial. The SPLA leader is currently in Nairobi from where he is in permanent contact with Abuja, he stated.

"His arrival was not scheduled and the SPLA delegation has full powers and the mandate to make decisions on behalf of the movement," he also stated.

Nine of the 12 members of the SPLA delegation are members of the General Command Council of the Operational Headquarters, the movement's highest body, he stated.

The Abuja delegation is being led by Major Silva Kiir Wani, an immediate assistant of Col. Garang and former commander in the national Army before joining the SPLA at its creation in 1983, added Mr. Nhial, who is himself a lawyer trained at the Khartoum University.

The SPLA considers as "an insignificant political theater" the spectacular strengthening of the Khartoum government delegation which was joined on 30 April by Colonel Muhammad Khalifah, speaker of the National Transitional Assembly, he also stated.

SPLA Confederation Concept Rejected

AB0105191093 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 1 May 93

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The Sudanese peace talks in Abuja in Nigeria, so far, show little sign of any progress. Although the government and John Garang's SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] have agreed to continue their ceasefire, there is little agreement on anything else. Indeed, the Sudanese Government delegation has now explicitly rejected the SPLA proposal for a confederation of northern and southern Sudan. On the line to Abuja, Herb Sally asked one of the government delegation, Justice Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Aziz Shiddu, why the government had rejected federalism.

[Begin recording] [Shiddu] Yes, because the talks are held here in Abuja within the Abuja I Communique, and it has been agreed between all the parties and the Nigerians, who are conducting or sponsoring the negotiations, that we will negotiate within the concept of a united Sudan. A confederation has never been raised before and it does not go with the principle which is being held, and that is a united Sudan.

[Sally] But under a confederation it will still be one Sudan, even if it is composed of two states.

[Shiddu] Call it whatever you may call it, but actually the concept, which was presented and which was not accepted, was a concept of complete separation, without defining the area where there could be some common grounds. And now, we are heading towards negotiating a relationship that would secure the concept of a united Sudan.

[Sally] So, what are you offering at those negotiations?

[Shiddu] We are offering the federal system; we are offering the exemption of the south from shari'ah law or Islamic laws; and we are offering devolution of power or authority. And now, we are expecting the Nigerian side to come with a paper which may perhaps define these issues and bring together the two minds.

[Sally] But these are the same things you've been offering all along. They are the same things which the SPLA has been refusing all along. So, it seems you're not offering anything new.

[Shiddu] No, let me remind you that we are now negotiating with the SPLA main stream. And let me remind you that already there has been an Abuja I talk and a communique has been issued. We don't want to go back to square one. We want to follow up the talks and I think we are very serious and I can definitely confirm that the two sides are very serious to reach an agreement. Now the agenda content—as proposed by the Nigerians and as accepted by both parties—it contains the terminology of a true federalist. We are not very clear about the meaning of a true federalist. So, the Nigerians are going to break that down and come to us with what they mean by a true federalist. [end recording]

Draft Law Recriminating Opposition Rejected

NC0205195893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, 2 May (MENA)—The Sudanese biweekly magazine AL-MULTAQA has criticized a law that the Sudanese Government plans to pass. The law views the Sudanese opposition abroad as a form of high treason.

The magazine said that the law is a departure from justice and fairness. The hand of the law will not be able to reach the opposition abroad, the paper said, noting that the law also will not spare the innocent.

The magazine asked: Who of us has not taken refuge in a sisterly and neighborly country? Who of us has not armed himself with foreign weapons? Who of us has not received foreign support?

The law, if promulgated, will be a setback in the country's history, depriving it of its sons as well as the sympathy of the revolution's supporters abroad.

The magazine said that the forums of expression and opinion in Sudan are still closed to many of those who wish to express their opinions and are still owned exclusively by the state.

Opposition Ummah Party Announces Detention of Leaders

NC0305172193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 3 May (MENA)—The Sudanese Ummah Party has announced that the security authorities in Sudan are continuing to arrest party cadres and al-Ansar activists and mosque preachers in Omdurman.

In a statement today, the party said the authorities last night arrested the director of guidance of the al-Ansar affairs organization and the Ummah party cadres in Khartoum and the various Sudanese provinces. Their place of detention is still unknown.

The statement said that three weeks ago, the Sudanese authorities arrested 21 Ummah Party leaders, including former ministers of communications, energy, and state.

The statement appealed to mass media and international human rights organizations to shed light on human right violations in Sudan and to expose the flagrant infringements of the Sudanese regime.

Ummah Party London Official Escapes 'Assassination Attempt'

PM3004155093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Apr 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Sudanese Opposition Member Escapes Assassination Attempt"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Al-Harith Idris, Director of the [Sudanese] Ummah Party's office in London and a former Sudanese diplomat, has had a mysterious traffic accident. He told AL-HAYAH that he suffered some bruises in the back and forehead. He said the British police was informed of the incident which he described as a political assassination attempt. The incident occurred in London's West End where the office of the Ummah Party, led by former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, is located. The driver of the car which tried to knock down the Sudanese opposition member escaped. Idris was immediately unconscious but workers in a nearby hotel rushed to his aid and moved him to a London hospital where he was examined and then discharged but the doctor asked him to go back for more tests.

Sudanese Embassy Opening in Eritrea Noted

EA3004120093 Khartoum SUNA in English 1059 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Khartoum, 30 April (SUNA/PANA) (SUNA)—Maj-Gen. al- Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the vice-chairman of Sudan's ruling body, the Revolutionary Council for National Salvation, officially opened the Sudanese Embassy in Asmera, Eritrea, on Thursday [29 April].

Maj-Gen Salih returned to Khartoum on the same day after a brief visit to the young nation during which he presented to the Eritrean Government the good wishes of the people and Government of Sudan on their accession to sovereingty. He said relations between Khartoum and Asmera remained solid and that the Sudanese people will assist Eritreans in their effort to rebuild the country after 30 years of liberation war.

Tunisia

President Holds Talks With Germany's Weizsaecker

LD3004145393 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Presidents Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Richard von Weizsaecker this morning at Carthage Palace held a meeting that dealt with Maghreb-European relations, issues of mutual interest and a number of current international and regional questions. [passage omitted]

An official spokesman for the Presidency said that on dealing with the issue of cooperation between the Arab Maghreb Union and the European Economic Community, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali had stressed the need for giving further impetus to the dialogue between the two groups in the framework of five [AMU members] with 12 [EC members] and to establish a cohesive development between the countries of the two groups that would respond to their joint interests and contribute towards the provision of the appropriate factors that would make the Mediterranean region an instrument of intercommunication and an oasis of security and peace.

The official spokesman said that Presidents Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Richard von Weizsaecker had reviewed international issues of mutual concern. In this context they had pointed out the importance of the changes witnessed in the international arena in recent years, the most important being the fall of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of Germany, stressing the two countries' commitment to support the principles of peace and cooperation, to strengthen the democratic trend, to stand against all kinds of terrorism and to defend human rights. In this context, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali stressed the need for further firmness to rescue the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina from the ordeal to which they are being exposed.

The official spokesman added that on dealing with the peace process in the Middle East, the two countries' presidents expressed their hope that the current round of talks would be decisive in the efforts to establish peace in the region. In this context, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali reaffirmed the need for the recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights by regarding the settlement of the Palestine issue in accordance with international legitimacy as a basic condition for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the region.

GCC Secretary General Rejects Carbon Tax

LD0305090693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0715 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Kuwait, 3 May (KUNA)—In a statement to the press published today, Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qasimi, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], said that the GCC rejects the carbon tax on oil because oil is the only commodity the GCC states rely on as a source of revenue.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-SIYASAH, Shaykh al-Qasimi said that among the topics that will be raised at the joint meeting of the GCC-EC foreign ministers will be the question of trade between the GCC and the EC and other groups and the issue of the carbon tax.

Commenting on the carbon tax, al-Qasimi noted that "oil is heavily burdened with taxes and imposing new taxes on it will mean discriminatory treatment." He added that "coal is a greater polluter of the environment than oil; despite this, the European states subsidize coal producers."

The GCC secretary general pointed out that the GCC states are presently in the negotiating stage. At the same time, he explained that freedom of trade must be upheld to ensure the continuation of the exchange of goods between states.

Al-Qasimi added that his tour of the GCC member states was aimed at undertstanding the obstacles and barriers that stand in the way of the realization of outstanding issues. He stressed that among the priorities of the GCC in the coming stage is the reexamination of its course and efforts to remove the obstacles that hinder the progress of this march.

Al-Qasimi referred to the implementation of the provisions of the GCC unified economic agreement and progress in implementing these provisions and the aims of the agreement. He said that the GCC member states are convinced of the benefit of the agreement and that all the matters and joint projects contained in it are on the way to being realized. He stressed that all this cannot be achieved overnight and that it will take time.

Bahrain

Lebanese Prime Minister Visits Manama on Regional Tour

JN0305073693 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Manama, 2 May (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah held a closed meeting in Manama this evening with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, who is currently visiting Bahrain as part of a regional tour.

It has been learned that the two officials reviewed the existing bilateral relations and ways of promoting them, especially in economic and investment fields. They also discussed a number of regional and international issues of joint interest.

Decision To Reopen Beirut Embassy Announced

JN0305171193 Manama WAKH in English 1615 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Manama, May 3 (GNA)—Bahraini Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Muhammad al-Mutawwa' has said that the Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri had conveyed greetings and best wishes of Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi to H.H. the Amir Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah. He added that talks between the Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin Salman al Khalifah and Mr. al-Hariri covered the latest issues on Arab arena, mainly development on the Middle East process. In this regard both sides stressed the necessity to reach a comprehensive and durable solution to the problem according to U.N. resolutions, number 242, 338 and 425, which call for unconditional withdrawal from south Lebanon and occupied Arab territories since 1967.

Both sides also expressed satisfaction over progress in the bilateral relations in various fields.

Underlining Bahrain's endeavor to further enhancing cooperation with Lebanon, the Bahraini side announced that Bahrain has decided to re-open its embassy in Lebanon and the Lebanese side welcomed this positive step, which will contribute to bolstering cooperation between the two countries.

Al-Hariri Holds Talks, Departs

JN0305115093 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1020 GMT 3 May 93

[Excerpt] Manama, 3 May (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri this morning held a second round of talks during which they completed discussions on the topics that were raised during the first round of talks. The talks dealt with consolidating bilateral cooperation and the current Arab and international developments.

Afterward, his highness the Bahraini prime minister and the Lebanese prime minister headed for Bahrain International Airport, where his highness led those who bade his guest farewell at the end of his two-day official visit to Bahrain.

During his visit to Bahrain, the Lebanese prime minister met with deputy heir apparent Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah. He also had talks with Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah. The talks dealt with bilateral relations and means of consolidating them in all fields, especially in economic, commercial, financial, banking, and investment fields. [passage omitted].

Kuwait

Iraq Agrees To Hand Over Missing Kuwaiti Family

LD0405112593 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0945 GMT 4 May 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 4 May (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, acting prime minister and foreign affairs minister, told the National Assembly at its regular session this morning that the Kuwaiti family which has been missing for more than three weeks is now in Basra in southern Iraq. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that six members of the al-Mukhaytir family are in the city of Basra.

Shaykh Sabah thanked Moroccan King Hassan II on behalf of the State of Kuwait, the emir, the government, and the people, for his efforts over this humanitarian case.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said this morning that Iraq will hand over the missing family to the International Red Cross. [passage omitted]

Details of Bush Plot Suspects Revealed

PM3004143093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ghunaym al-Mutayri: "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Publishes Names of Network Members; Kuwaiti Security Forces Pursue Fugitives After Uncovering Plan To Assassinate Bush"]

[Text] Kuwait—Kuwaiti sources have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT full details of the arrest of elements of the Iraqi terrorist network that tried to carry out a number of sabotage operations inside Kuwait.

The sources pointed out that the network planned to destroy commercial installations and key places in Kuwait, using arms, bombs, explosives, and technical equipment to facilitate its first task, namely blowing up former U.S. President George Bush's motorcade.

The sources said that a force from the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry stormed a number of barns in the al-Sulaybiyah area after receiving information about the presence of the two fugitive Iraqi suspects there. But this operation did not succeed, because they had left the site a few hours before the force arrived.

They added that all those under suspicion in the area were arrested and interrogated to find out where the two suspects fled to.

When AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT asked about the possibility of the two suspects' fleeing to Iraqi territory by land or Iranian territory by sea, the sources said that their fleeing by sea is a weak possibility, because of the extensive coastguard patrols, which are difficult to penetrate.

But the Kuwaiti authorities' fear is that they might manage to flee across the borders on foot, avoiding the Interior and Defense Ministries' security posts.

The sources said that the terrorist network and their supporters are mercenaries and former convicts. And that 15 suspects have been arrested so far. They include 10 Iraqis, four Kuwaitis, and one non-Kuwaiti.

Following are the names of the suspects and their roles in the sabotage operation, as mentioned in the investigations conducted by the State Security Prosecution Office:

Suspect No. 1: Ra'd 'Abd-al-Amir 'Abbud al-Asadi; Iraqi, age 22 (under arrest); assumed name Fahd Hamid Mutlaq.

Role in the operation: Leader of the sabotage network and main executor of the plan; member of Iraqi intelligence, works in a cafe in al-Basrah as a cover; Iraqi intelligence supplied him with 10 explosive charges as well as arms and explosives to sabotage shops, markets, and vital installations in the country; Iraqi intelligence supplied him with a vehicle (Super Ban) [as published] to use to infiltrate the country; the Kuwaiti number plate is forged and does not belong to the vehicle; brought with him from Iraq a quantity of alcoholic drinks to deceive security men about the real aims of the operation.

Suspect No. 2: Wali 'Abd-al-Hadi 'Abd-al-Hasan al-Ghazali; Iraqi, age 26 (under arrest).

Role in the operation: On a suicide mission, to blow himself up with the booby-trapped jeep; received training in Iraqi intelligence camps in bombing operations and the use of explosives; to participate with suspects Nos. 1, 2, and 3 in the bombing plan and blow up the jeep by remote control.

In the event of failure to blow up the jeep the decision was to blow himself up among the crowd and citizens, using a belt of explosives. He was trained in its use by Iraqi intelligence. A forged passport was found on him.

Suspect No. 3: Salim Nasir Rumi al-Shamari; Iraqi, age 40 (under arrest), assumed name Khalid Farhan Salih.

Role in the operation: Key member of the network; an Iraqi intelligence element; former convict; knew of infiltration operations and smuggling of alcoholic drinks; investigated one of the coalition forces' positions in order to blow it up and spread alarm and confusion; to watch coalition forces' positions on the Kuwaiti-Saudi-Iraqi border, particularly posts on the Kuwaiti border.

Suspect No. 4: Bandar 'Ujayl Jabir al-Shamari; Iraqi, age 22 (under arrest), assumed name Hamdan Sa'ud Sa'd.

Role in the operation: Key member of the sabotage network, Iraqi intelligence element; has full knowledge of the sabotage plan and knows desert roads and routes; sheltered the network leader and suspects Nos. 2 and 3 and facilitated their movements in view of his knowledge

of the locations, as he was resident in Kuwait and had been deported after the invasion; a former convict, accused in several cases.

Suspect No. 5: 'Adil Isma'il 'Isa; Iraqi, age 42 (under arrest).

Role in the operation: Key member of the network and an Iraqi intelligence element; drove the Super Ban vehicle in which elements of the network infilitrated the country; participated in planning the operation of entering the country; hid explosive charges in the al-Barr [as transliterated] area and, after his arrest, informed police of their whereabouts; sheltered suspects Nos. 6, 7, and 8; has a friendship with suspect No. 14, who is involved in smuggling and trading in alcoholic drinks and drugs; former convict, sentenced in several cases.

Suspect No. 6: Hadi 'Awdah Harjan al-Shamari; Iraqi, age 42 (under arrest).

Role in the operation: Member of the network; knew of the plan and its aims; inspected explosives himself and ensured their correct preparation; offered suspect No. 14 a quantity of drugs to sell inside the country and share the money with members of the network.

Suspect No. 7: 'Ali Khudayr Biday 'Id (known as al-Majidi); Iraqi, age 64 (under arrest).

Role in the operation: Member of Iraqi intelligence; element of support for members of the network; Iraqi intelligence supplied him with a Kalashnikov to resist security men if they should confront the network; knew of the plan and saw the explosives; participated in bringing the explosives from Iraq in collaboration with suspect No. 6.

Suspect No. 8: Jabbar Nasir Zayir; Iraqi, age 42 (under arrest).

Role in the operation: Member of Iraqi intelligence; knew of the plan; saw the arms, bombs, and explosives to be used in the sabotage operation.

Suspect No. 9: Daydan 'Atiyyah al-Khalidi; Iraqi (at large).

Suspect No. 10: Jabbar Habib Muhammad; Iraqi, age 45 (under arrest).

Role in the operation: Member of Iraqi intelligence; knew of the arms, explosives, alcoholic drinks, and drugs seized with the suspects; knew of details of the sabotage plan; knows all members of the network, who are Iraqi intelligence members; father of suspect No. 11 and related to suspect No. 1, leader of the network.

Suspect No. 11: Ahmad Jabbat Habib Muhammad; Iraqi, age 21 (under arrest).

Role in the operation: Concealed information from security men concerning suspects, admitted receiving bag containing the bombs and remote control device before the network members' attempt to flee the country; hid leader of the network and suspects Nos. 2, 3, 4, and 10 and helped them to escape to the house of suspect No. 13; son of suspect No. 10.

Suspect No. 12: Badr Jiyad Tamir Mutlaq al-Shamari; Kuwaiti, age 30 (under arrest), assumed name Badr Salim al-Shamari.

Role in the operation: Key helper for members of the network; concealed information from security men; hosted leader of the network and suspects Nos. 2, 3, and 4 despite his knowledge that they were infiltrators; distributed network members—especially suspects Nos. 5, 6, 7, and 8—to various areas of the country to hide them; received alcoholic drinks brought by members of the network to sell inside the country; former convict, accused in several cases.

Suspect No. 13: Muhammad Khalifah 'Uqlah; Kuwaiti, age 55 (under arrest).

Role in the operation: Concealed information from police; hid and sheltered suspect No. 10 and suspects Nos. 2, 3, and 4; met with them privately despite his knowledge that they were infiltrators.

Suspect No. 14: Nasir 'Abd-al-Rida Husayn al-Sayl; Kuwaiti (under arrest).

Role in the operation: Concealed information from security men; sheltered suspects in his apartment in al-Salimiyah area, where suspects Nos. 5, 6, 7, and 8 were arrested; frequented al-Jakhur [as transliterated] with suspect No. 5, with whom he had a friendship during his residence in Kuwait.

Suspect No. 15: Salim Jiyad Tamir Mutlaq al-Shamari; Kuwaiti, age 22 (under arrest).

Role in the operation: Concealed information from security men; facilitated the movements of the network leader and suspect No. 2; met with suspect No. 12.

Suspect No. 16: Nahar Rumi al-Khalidi; non-Kuwaiti, age 60 (under arrest).

Role in the operation: Concealed information from police; moved the network leader and suspects Nos. 2, 3, and 4 to the house of suspect No. 13, where they met; had prior knowledge of the infiltration.

Suspect No. 17: Iraqi (at large); inquiries about him continuing.

Prime Minister on Extremism, Iraq, Security

NC0405100093 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 27 Apr 93 p 6

[Interview with Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, by Zakariya Nil; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] It was natural for AL-AHRAM to start the interview with His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah

by asking for the impressions that any visitor to Kuwait gets about the Kuwaiti people's emotional mood two years after the liberation of their land. Have the people returned to their normal mood? Have they restored their emotional and national feeling of security? Have they rid themselves of the psychological trauma caused by the crime of the invasion? Shaykh Sa'ad immediately voiced two words: No. No. He then said: It is difficult to say that the Kuwaiti people are now back to their normal selves and have restored their emotional and national security. It can only be said that they have restored part of their former selves and some of their security. [passage omitted]

[Nil] In view of the current situation in Kuwait, are there fears of the extremist tide in Kuwait, especially as some elements are infiltrating mosques' pulpits in the name of preaching religion in order to disseminate ideas that might have short or long term negative effects—particularly since such ideas have nothing to do with the creed or tolerance of Islam's principles?

[Al-Sabah] You are not a newcomer to Kuwait and the Gulf. You are aware of the Kuwaiti people's psychology and their tolerant and peaceful nature that prefers understanding and good treatment without violence and terrorism. Since its inception, Kuwaiti society has been a pious one, simple, and moderate. I don't believe that any call to extremism in any sphere will be listened to in Kuwait.

[Nil] Allow me to talk about the issue of Arab reconciliation. If some Arab countries believe that there is a possibility of returning to Arab solidarity through an Arab reconciliation, then what does Your Highness believe to be the right basis for moving in the direction of reconciliation?

[Al-Sabah] Who has said that Kuwait is against Arab solidarity or Arab reconciliation? His highness said this disapprovingly [source-supplied comment]. Kuwait has always been at the vanguard of those calling and acting for solidarity between all the Arab countries. History is the best witness of this. But let me honestly ask this: Does Arab solidarity mean that the strong can occupy the weak, violate their sovereignty, and desecrate its land and dignity? Does Arab reconciliation mean that the big can devour the small, eliminate them as an entity, and put an end to their existence?

What is this solidarity? What reconciliation is this? This is a humiliation for the nation and a return to the law of the jungle.

Before talking about reconciliation and restoration of solidarity, let us ask ourselves this question: Who has killed Arab solidarity? Who has split the Arab ranks? Arab solidarity should be established on the real grounds of sincerity, good intentions, right, justice, respect for national sovereignty, and non-interference in internal affairs. Let the call for solidarity be based on these principles. Let the call be for frank admission before reconciliation.

Undoubtedly, you—as a journalist who closely follows the affairs of the region—have followed up the claims and allegations reiterated by the Iraqi media organs that justify the intentions of the ruling regime in Baghdad. They have not abandoned their schemes and expansionist ambitions in Kuwait to this day. They have boycotted the meetings of the UN committee that demarcated the land and maritime borders between Kuwait and Iraq on the basis of agreements and documents exchanged by the two countries. They have not implemented the UN resolutions on the liberation of Kuwait that were a principal condition for the cease-fire. It continues to insist on detaining Kuwaiti citizens as prisoners and hostages. Where is the reconciliation? Where is the solidarity?

[Nil] In light of these conditions, what is Your Highness' view regarding the need to maintain a balance of power in the Gulf region, who could be the parties involved in such a balance, and where would the Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] member states fit under this balance? Also, do you believe in what some say, that the GCC states are primarily responsible for filling the vacuum?

[Al-Sabah] In the past 10 years, the Gulf region was the scene of two bitter experiences: The Iran-Iraq war, which lasted for eight years, and the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait. Both experiences were hard enough so that some realize the grave consequences that result from aggressive policies. We hope that everybody has learned enough lessons from these exhausting experiences to realize the futility of pursuing megalomania, expansionism, attempts to gain power, and interference in the domestic affairs of other countries. I hope that everyone, and they are all developing nations, will focus on achieving social and economic development of their countries and improving the living standards of their people, using their natural resources which one day will dry up. How could there be a vacuum when the Gulf waters are bustling with naval units that belong to several countries from the East and West? However, if you insist there is a security vacuum, I believe that filling this vacuum—if there is one—can be attained through cooperation among the brothers in the GCC, with the Arab brothers—such as Egypt and Syria—and with friends, such as the United States, Britain, France, Russia, and any other country ready to cooperate with us.

[Nil] Perhaps my next question has been asked several times before—that is, why have the Gulf countries not made a political decision so far about the "Gulf Shield Army" and why has the idea not been put into practice, particularly since we know that more than three years have passed since the idea originated and His Majesty Sultan Qabus of Oman has put the final touches on it? Why is the project stumbling?

[Al-Sabah] I cannot speak for the Gulf states, but I could tell you very simply that the concept of Gulf security is based on three defense lines. The first one relates to the GCC countries, and it is proceeding at a pace that may seem slow to some but is actually steady and firm. The second is the Arab defense line, which is based on the

Damascus Declaration. The third is the international defense line, as part of the cooperation treaties and agreements signed with the major states which are, thank God, all friendly states. [passage omitted]

Possible Reactions to Carbon Tax Considered

LD0205134293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0845 GMT 2 May 93

[By Dubayy al-Harbi]

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 2 May (KUNA)—The carbon and energy tax is another link in the chain of the economic war and blackmail campaign that the industrialized states have waged against OPEC since the 1973-80 transformation of oil from a cheap and abused commodity into a rare and precious material that is unrivaled by alternative resources due to the numerous uses of oil.

The consumer states have formulated an exact strategy and numerous scenarios to control the oil market ever since 1974, while at the same time OPEC has never adhered to a precise output strategy which takes into account market changes or stands up to the strategy and tactics of the consumer countries. [passage omitted]

The policies of the industrialized states managed to have a negative influence on the price of oil as they formulated a carefully designed media campaign aimed at blaming the OPEC countries for the ills of Western capitalist society, such as inflation and unemployment, and preparing OPEC states psychologically for any measure they deemed suitable or necessary to adopt. When OPEC oil prices fell, the industrialized countries maintained the high level of the price of oil to the final consumer of oil products by imposing taxes that were biased against oil; these prices increased by as much as 300 percent on a barrel of oil in some West European states.

The energy and carbon tax that the major industrialized states plan to impose on oil falls within the chain of conspiracies to absorb the oil fortunes of the oil-producing states and channel them into the coffers of the consumer states to meet the deficits in their balance of payments and to cover expenditures on social security, health, and politics by way of the aid given to the client states. The justifications of those states that have been trying to use this as an excuse for levying these taxes cannot find basis on scientific fact or certainty. If anything, these taxes constitute a great burden on the elements of growth in the world. [passage omitted]

At a time when the winds of change have swept almost every inch of the globe and stirred up a lot of still water under numerous regional or international issues, the great challenge facing OPEC remains its ability to do the following:

—To quickly settle its internal squabbles and rise above all trivialities by dealing with one another with a degree of flexibility and looking again at the quota of each country in a way that will allow the producer states which experience acute liquidity problems and transient economic difficulties to take on as little of the burden caused by the lowering of the overall production ceiling as possible.

—To set up a fund aimed at providing short-term facilities to the producer states which face severe liquidity problems and external debts.

—To guide centralized government spending to avoid wasting funds on futile expenditures and to provide a climate of confidence and assurance in the private sectors of the oil-producing states so that these sectors can participate in economic activity and production.

—To lay down the foundations of regional stability, especially in the Gulf area, so that there will be less need to spend more to meet the elements of instability and to reduce the need to rely on Western powers who would apply political pressures to check any practical economic resistance to the energy tax.

—To work as much as possible to transform the oil trade from a raw material trade into a trade of products; this would give great competitive value to the oil products in the world markets if the Western powers go ahead with introducing the carbon and energy tax.

—To impose similar taxes on manufactured Western products; this constitutes an element in the process of guiding spending and consumption in the oil-producing countries and it will develop local industries engaged in the processing of products and other activities.

—To begin a studied media campaign at the international level, supported by evidence and documents, against the policy of introducing the discriminatory taxes on oil and to seek the help of pressure groups in Western society which would suffer from the introduction of the tax. [passage omitted]

The fall in oil prices was not the result of discovering huge new oil fields, which could change the nature of the market or the nature of the trade itself. It is also true that alternative resources are limited and do not match oil in terms of its various uses or the fact that oil is less dangerous. One could say that it is very probable that later meetings of OPEC will come up with a production and economic strategy and policy which will help OPEC to overcome its present dilemma and that prices will rise again to above the $20 barrier if the states firmly adhere to their solidarity and champion the principle of continuing to exalt the benefits, instead of going for a limited increase in income.

OPEC has to lay down a plan for the process of exchange as well as flexible moves between the aims and social and political considerations which are prevailing in light of the existing competition in the market. OPEC should tie the commodity to the country's supreme policy.

Oman

'No Threat' Seen in Iranian Territorial Waters Decision

PM3004135893 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Apr 93 pp1, 4

[Report by Husayn 'Abd-al-Ghani: "Omani Source: Iran's Definition of Its Territorial Waters Does Not Constitute a Threat"]

[Text] Muscat—A responsible Omani source has told AL-HAYAH that last week's decision by the Iranian Consultative Assembly (parliament) setting Iranian territorial waters at 12 nautical miles "contains nothing new or worrying. It falls within the context of Iranian sovereignty in defining its territorial waters, just as every other state is entitled to define its sea borders." In his view, what the Iranian parliament did "was simply an implementation or ratification of the international agreement on the law of the seas, and a repetition of what many other states in the region and the world did."

The source voiced the view that the Iranian declaration "contains nothing new and does not undermine the sovereignty of the Arab Gulf states, including Oman, which shares with Iran the supervision of the strategic Strait of Hormuz. In fact, the entire navigable part of the strait is in Oman's territorial waters."

Diplomatic sources in Muscat share the Omani source's view that there is no cause for anxiety or worry about the Iranian parliament's declaration. They believe it is unlikely that the move will threaten international shipping in the Gulf, particularly as Tehran is fully convinced that the region and the world insist that the Gulf waters should, "despite all the challenges of national sovereignty and territorial waters, remain international waters continuously open to shipping."

They referred to the meeting held a few days ago in Karachi between Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, United Arab Emirates minister of state for foreign affairs, and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, seeing it as evidence that the Iranian Consultative Assembly's decision did not close the door to a peaceful settlement of the problem of the three UAE islands occupied by Iran. They made the observation that both Tehran and Abu-Dhabi wish to keep the channels open and avoid exposing the chances of a political settlement to the threat of complete paralysis.

The diplomatic sources also referred to the U.S. reaction to the Iranian declaration, noting that, despite the escalating political and media campaign between the two countries, the U.S. reaction "supplied the proof that the declaration did not constitute a threat. The U.S. State Department confirmed that the Iranian parliament's decision added nothing new to Iran's previous positions and that many other states had their territorial waters set at 12 nautical miles."

Border Disputes With Iran, Pakistan Denied

PM3004183193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Apr 93 p 1

[Wafa'i Diyab report: "Muscat: Tehran Recognizes Our Sovereignty Over Jazirat al-Ghanam"]

[Excerpts] Muscat—Official Omani sources have stressed that discussions about certain problems or disputes with Iran is merely baseless speculation. They pointed out that the two countries adhere fully to the content of a clear agreement in this connection signed in the days of the shah.

The sultanate, as the sources say, has no border disputes with anyone. But it is in the process of demarcating its economic sea area with Pakistan in the Arab Sea. As for what is being said about a dispute with Iran over Jazirat al-Ghanam, it is merely speculation. Because Iran has never demanded sovereignty over the island. And it recognizes the sultanate's sovereignty over it in accordance with the stipulations of the international agreement in force. [passage omitted]

The official Omani sources also stress the nonexistence of any dispute with Pakistan over territorial waters. They say that current contacts are aimed at demarcating borders agreed long ago, and there is no possibility of disagreement over them. And in accordance with an agreement signed in the sixties the sultanate returned to Pakistan an island called "Jawadir" [as transliterated] but made it conditional that it be entitled to draft its inhabitants when needed and benefit from any utilization of its oil.

Meanwhile, well-informed sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that an Omani-Iranian joint committee will hold its first meeting in Tehran in October to promote further political, economic, and trade cooperation between the two countries.

According to the same sources, Iran offered the Sultanate of Oman the establishment of joint-investment enterprises in the Iranian area of Qeshm, one of three free zones in Iran. It also offered its complete willingness to transport any production between the two countries from Qeshm to the markets of the Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union.

Saudi Arabia

Replies to Libyan Charges on Hajj Reported

LD0305004593 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2345 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Riyadh 2 May (SPA)—In reply to what Libyan Radio has said in its bulletins today, Sunday, 11 Shawal 1413 AH, corresponding to 2 May 1993, of repeated allegations accusing Saudi Arabia of stopping Libyan pilgrims from performing pilgrimage rites, a responsible source told SPA today: We are amazed; furthermore, we denounce the return of the Libyan media to repeating its

lies against the Kingdom about an issue on which Saudi Arabia has already explained its position in official statements before the 1412 AH pilgrimage, when it refuted Libyan allegations by the facts and documents that we will again summarize as follows:

First: Saudi Arabia has never stopped any Libyan or non-Libyan pilgrim from performing pilgrimage rites according to the quotas agreed and ratified by all the Islamic countries.

Second: It is well known to everybody that the UN Security Council on 31 March 1992 issued Resolution Number 748 imposing a ban on Libyan flights and all countries have adhered to the resolution since its issue.

When the Libyan Government asked for Saudi mediation with the international organization to allow its planes to transport Libyan pilgrims to the holy land, the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud, conducted the necessary contacts to fulfill the Libyan request of enabling Libyan pilgrims to reach Saudi Arabia.

The custodian of the two holy mosques instructed Saudi Airways to provide all necessary facilities for receiving Libyan planes and to enquire about their number and arrival times.

After informing the Libyan authorities about what had been done, the Saudi Government received from Libya, through its embassy in Tripoli, a cable of thanks and gratitude for the Saudi Arabia's sincere efforts in this matter.

A few days before the pilgrimage, and after Saudi Arabia had obtained the agreement of the concerned authorities in a way which enabled the arrival [word indistinct] last year, 1412 AH. Then the Libyan media launched a campaign accusing Saudi Arabia of stopping Libyan pilgrims from performing rites. At that time, we hastened to reply to those accusations as we said before.

In concluding his statement, the source said: We do not want to open the old pages that we have already closed, but we categorically reject these false accusations, which are addressed to us in spite of all the good efforts exerted by the Saudi Government and people for the comfort of the pilgrims and in order to enable them to perform their rites in safety, ease, and confidence, a matter to which millions of Muslims testify and are grateful.

After that, we would like to reiterate to the Libyan people our permanent welcome of their pilgrims this year and every year, the same as we welcome hundreds of thousands of pilgrims.

Cabinet Discusses Bosnia, Other Issues

LD0305200993 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 May 93

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers held its regular session today in al-Yamamah palace in Riyadh, chaired by Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard.

After the session, Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state, member of the cabinet, and acting information minister, gave SPA a statement in which he said:

The cabinet began today's session by listening to a brief report by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, on the resolutions and recommendations of the Islamic Conference Organization's [ICO] 21st foreign ministerial conference which concluded in Karachi last Thursday. These resolutions and conclusions embraced all the political, economic, and cultural subjects related to the Islamic world and its issues of destiny.

The foreign minister described the results of the conference as successful in dealing with the issues and subjects on the agenda, particularly the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, is carefully following and is materially and morally supporting.

This follow-up and support have produced good results in the signing of the peace treaty at the Balkan summit meeting in Greece.

Saudi Arabia welcomes this treaty and considers it as a practical step toward rescuing the Muslims from the crimes of genocide committed by the Serbs.

Saudi Arabia will monitor the Serbian position in implementing this treaty after its ratification by the parliament, and hopes that the supporting international stance will continue until this treaty is implemented.

On the Palestinian issue, the foreign minister pointed out to the cabinet that at the ICO conference there was full support for the Arab position at the peace negotiations. [passage omitted]

Minister Mas'ud added: The cabinet expressed its satisfaction at the independence of Eritrea and welcomed it as a struggling neighboring country. Saudi Arabia hopes that cooperation between the two countries will be consolidated for the benefit of both countries and peoples. [passage omitted]

Yemen

President Interviewed on Ties With Neighbors, West

NC0105065593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 1 May 93

[Second and last part of telephone interview with President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, in Sanaa, by Shihatah Abu- al-Majd, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Mr. President: Let us move from the elections to Yemen's situation at the Arab and international levels. Do you intend to improve Yemen's relations with its neighbors, particularly with Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman, in an attempt to mend the rift and eliminate traces of the past?

[Salih] Following the establishment of the Republic of Yemen on 22 May [1990], the Yemeni government announced in its first policy statement before the parliament that it would endeavor to resolve border issues with its neighbors. The government made good on its promise. Proof of this is the final agreement signed with Oman about the borders between the two countries. Negotiations through a committee of experts are now underway between us and our brothers in Saudi Arabia to prepare for the demarcation of borders between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, according to documents and the work by the committee of experts and other competent committees. We are working to resolve the border problem. This is a start to improving ties with our neighbors which were somewhat lukewarm during the Gulf crisis. God willing, this will be done.

[Abu-al-Majd] Mr. President: In your opinion, how could the Arab world overcome some of the differences of the recent past? In Yemen's view, are there some initiatives to overcome these differences, mend the rift, or undertake reconciliation?

[Salih] I believe that the atmosphere is ripe, as long as there is goodwill by our brothers, to restore Arab solidarity. The most qualified party to play this role, in my view, is the Arab League. It is an Arab institution that represents all Arab states and it could play a primary and mediatory role in clearing the atmosphere among the brothers, which is one of its fundamental tasks. It could play a positive role in clearing up the atmosphere and aftereffects of the Gulf war.

[Abu-al-Majd] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, during the recent Arab League Council meeting, presented an initiative for inter-Arab reconciliation. Do you support it, and what can you do to help put it into practice?

[Salih] We blessed and supported Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid's initiative. Whatever Yemen is asked to do by the Arab League secretary general, we are prepared to play any role that we can and act as a catalyst.

[Abu-al-Majd] There are reports that the Sultanate of Oman is seeking to restore Yemen's ties with some of its neighbors in the Arabian Peninsula, Saudi Arabia and others, to what they used to be. How true are these reports?

[Salih] Actually we appreciate the role of the brothers in Oman, but we do not have any dispute with the brothers. The channels are open and communications exist. We appreciate any Arab country that could play a role, be it Oman or any other state, in clearing the atmosphere among the brothers, which is a duty among brothers.

[Abu-al-Majd] Let us turn to Yemen's role in the Red Sea region. Yemen is at the southern end of this region. What is Yemen's role in safeguarding pan-Arab security in this area?

[Salih] We are an integral part of the countries that overlook the Red Sea, along with our brothers in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Eritrea, Sudan, and Somalia. The security and safety of the Red Sea is primarily the responsibility of the region's countries.

[Abu-al-Majd] Mr. President: What is the nature of your current relations with the West after the lukewarm period following the Gulf war, especially with the United States and some West European states?

[Salih] They are all right. They are getting better, particularly with the European or Western states, foremost among them being the United States. Relations are improving and getting better than they were during and after the Gulf crisis.

[Abu-al-Majd] How do you view the peace process now in motion in Washington?

[Salih] We follow it with interest, and hope that the peace talks in the United States will be successful and that a solution to this problem will be found that could guarantee the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people. We hope the resolutions of international legitimacy, which at present are being applied with double standards, will be implemented. International resolutions are implemented in one place while they are not applied in another, such as in Palestine, southern Lebanon, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. We hope there is a single, not double, standard in applying international resolutions.

[Abu-al-Majd] Mr. President: Let us return to the domestic situation in Yemen. What future economic plans do you have for sisterly Yemen following the legislative and election experiments as well as the unity experiment? We have learned that oil discoveries have been recently found in Yemen.

[Salih] Once what we have previously discussed in terms of duplication and administrative, political, and constitutional reforms have been tackled, we, God willing, will continue to turn our attention to the oil, gas, and mineral discoveries and will pay full attention to agricultural development. This is part of our future plans, particularly since oil and gas discoveries have been found. We

will continue this march to achieve security, stability, and welfare for the Yemeni people and to rely upon their national resources.

[Abu-al-Majd] Let us turn to Egyptian-Yemeni relations. What are the prospects for relations?

[Salih] Yemeni-Egyptian relations are historic and long-standing. They were baptized by the blood of the two peoples during the defense of the Yemeni revolution and republic. The Yemeni people will never forget what the fraternal Egyptian people have done for Yemen to ensure its victory over the wrongdoers. The blood of the Yemenis was mixed with that of their brothers in Egypt. All our people have full appreciation, respect, and admiration for the Egyptian people. Our relations are always excellent. Even though relations sometimes are lukewarm, this is always cleared up after a while. Our relations and cooperation with the brothers in Egypt continue to be excellent. I also have good relations with brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, whom I have known for a long time.

[Abu-al-Majd] A few days ago you telephoned President Mubarak. Could you tell us about what and what are the two political leaderships planning to do to serve the interests of the Arab world?

[Salih] The contact concerned what happened to Information Minister brother Safwat al-Sharif and was to inquire about his health and to condemn the acts of violence that took place in brotherly Egypt, acts which we hope would not take place in an Arab state. This is because the safety of Egypt means the safety of the entire Arab world. We trust the wise leadership in Egypt to try to resolve the matter peacefully and in a way that could ensure security, peace, and stability for Egypt.

[Abu-al-Majd] Thank you Mr. President. We wish you and the brotherly Yemeni people good luck.

[Salih] Thank you.

YSP Accused of Election Assassination Attempt

PM3004164193 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 30 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

['Abd-al-Rahman al-Haydari report: "Bakil Tribal Chief's Son Accuses Socialist Party of Trying To Assassinate Him"]

[Text] Sanaa—Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Naji al-Shayif, son of Shaykh Naji al-Shayif, chief of the Bakil tribes, has stated that the day before yesterday he escaped an assassination attempt after winning a seat in one of the Sanaa Governorate constituencies. He accused the [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP] of having been behind the attempt, which, he said, resulted in the death of four of his aides and injuries to four other people.

In a telephone statement to AL-HAYAH, al-Shayif said that after winning the seat of the Rajwazah constituency near Sanaa, and as he was heading back for the capital in a 20-car convoy with his men, someone opened fire on the convoy from a high hill "as a result of which four of my supporters were killed and four others were injured." He added: "I accuse the YSP, whose candidate in my constituency was defeated."

A responsible YSP source has stated that after the victory of the party's candidate, 'Ali Jamil, in constituency No. 280 in the area of Hubur Zulayman north of Sanaa "there were some developments and one of the sons of Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Hasan al-Ahmar and some soldiers intervened and there was an exchange of fire as a result of which four YSP members and some others on the opposite side were killed."

The source said that the party would submit a memorandum questioning the results in more that 50 constituencies in the northern and eastern governorates, including the 'Abs constituency in al-Hudaydah "where the official in charge of security just took the ballot boxes away and started sorting them with his soldiers."

YRG Has 'No Reservations' About Possible Coalition

PM3004133893 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Apr 93 p1

[Jamal Khashuqji report: "Reform Grouping: No Veto Against Socialist Party; We Are Ready for a National Coalition Government"]

[Text] Jeddah—The Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] has emphasized that it has no reservations regarding any political power in Yemen and is ready to participate in any "coalition, bilateral, or tripartite" government.

Muhammad al-Yadumi, YRG assistant secretary general and chairman of the party's Higher Elections Committee, said in a telephone interview with AL-HAYAH in Jeddah that the YRG was ready for all possibilities and "would accept partnership with the General People's Congress [GPC] and would also agree to join a tripartite government including the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] or a national coalition government."

That constitutes a denial of the claim about a veto against the YSP by the YRG, which is expected to become the second force in the country after the elections.

Al-Yaduni added: "If the GPC and the YSP agreed to resume their former alliance and to form a government between them, we would accept that and choose the course of democratic opposition. We are ready for all possibilities. Whatever our position, we will continue to uphold the YRG's Islamic principles and objectives."

Independent Yemeni sources have stressed that the YRG prefers cooperation with the GPC which has many members who support its political line, but it seems that the GPC has not made a final decision yet, particularly as it has several trends with different choices. The election results are expected to resolve that matter within the party.

Baghdad Seeking Permission for Pilgrim Flights to Mecca

NC0305161393 Paris AFP in English 1450 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 3 (AFP)—Iraq wants to fly pilgrims to Islam's holiest city of Mecca in western Saudi Arabia and has asked neighbouring countries for use of their airspace, parliamentary speaker Sa'kdi Mahdi Salih said Monday (3 May).

The country has been under U.N. sanctions since its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, including an air traffic embargo.

Salih said Tehran, Amman and Riyadh had been contacted to allow an Iraqi aircraft to fly Muslims to the annual pilgrimage, which this year takes place in the last 10 days of May.

"Most of the pilgrims are elderly. The journey overland is exhausting for them and during the last pilgrimage, some of them died while enroute," he told AFP.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati-Jahromi said Sunday that Tehran would consider the request.

Saudi Guards Said To Kill Iraqi 'Detainees'

JN0205122193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0954 GMT 2 May 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 2 May (INA)—Saudi guards have killed and wounded a number of Iraqi citizens during demonstrations to protest poor living conditions and maltreatment in the detention camps.

A number of the members of 236 families that recently returned to the al-Muthanna Governorate revealed the inhuman, repressive practices of the Saudi guards while implementing their superiors' commands to confront Iraqi demonstrators demanding to be returned to their homeland.

During interviews conducted by AL-JUMHURIYAH with returnees, Mu'ayyad Jawad al-Husayn from al-Basrah said that a major demonstration took place at the al-Artawiyah camp on 17 Ramadan. He said the Saudi authorities were compelled to use tanks and armored vehicles to surround the camp and put down the agitation among the detainees.

He explained that the arbitrary shelling of the demonstrators and the tents housing the detainees left many either dead or wounded. Meanwhile, 1,200 demonstrators were isolated in four barracks, each with an area not more than 32 square meters.

He said that one of the methods used by the Saudi guards to punish detainees was to tie their feet and hands together and beat them with clubs from 2100 until 0300 in the morning. [passage omitted]

Tariq 'Aziz Confers With DFLP's Hawatimah

JN0105165393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 May 93

[Text) Baghdad, 1 May (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and official in charge of the Arab Liberation Movements Bureau, today received Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], and an accompanying delegation.

The officials held a comprehensive and profound discussion of the situation in the Palestinian and Arab arenas, as well as threats to the Arab nation and its fateful issues. They stressed the need to activate joint popular and official Arab action to preserve Arab rights and interests.

Hawatimah conveyed his congratulations to Iraq's people and leadership on President Saddam Husayn's birthday, and stressed that the Palestinian people stand by Iraq's people in one trench to lift the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq.

Tariq 'Aziz stressed the Iraqi people's total support for the just struggle of our Palestinian Arab people, particularly the ongoing intifadah, to wrest the just rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Saddam Receives Hawatimah

JN0305190693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 3 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP].

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister.

Ramadan Receives PFLP Official 30 Apr

JN3004175693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1712 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Apr (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, has received Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, member on the PLO Executive Committee and member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and his delegation.

Ramadan told Malluh Iraq is holding fast to its pan-Arab agenda calling for defending intifadah and Palestinian people, who, armed with faith and rocks, are tackling the Zionist occupiers.

The war of attrition being waged against Iraq through the sanctions is being torn to pieces by the the steadfast Iraqi people, who, Ramadan emphasized, are evincing innovativeness in the areas of industrialization and reconstruction. He cited the military parade that was staged to mark His Excellency President Saddam's birthday as

evidence of the resilience of the Iraqis and their determination to persevere in their drive for advancement and reconstruction.

Meanwhile, Malluh called the steadfastness of the Iraqis and Palestinians, their adherence to their pan-Arab ideals, and their fight for their independence and sovereignty the appropriate and practical response and living testimony to the strength of the Arabs and their rejection of tutelage and slavery.

'Aziz Meets Vatican Official, Urges Embargo End

JN0305125193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, today received Cardinal Achille Silvestrini, head of the Vatican's Eastern Churches Synod. 'Aziz comprehensively reviewed the extent of Iraq's abidance by the Security Council resolutions, which requires lifting the unjust embargo from which the Iraqi people have been suffering for the past three years. He called on the Catholic Church and all other organizations and institutions which believe in justice and fairness to effectively and seriously work for lifting the unjust embargo imposed on our perseverant people.

The cardinal affirmed the Vatican's position which calls for lifting the unjust embargo and ending the suffering of the Iraqi people, particularly the elderly and children.

Yemeni Elections Said 'Strong Slap' to U.S.

JN0205084693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 2 May 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 2 May (INA)—BABIL has described the results of the Yemeni elections as a strong slap to Washington, Riyadh, and their allies.

In an editorial today, BABIL says that the victory of Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's party in the first free, democratic elections in Yemen is not only a democratic achievement, but also a direct blow to the evil international and evil regional forces, particularly America and Saudi Arabia.

The paper recalls the stands of the Saudi regime and the U.S. Administration regarding the leadership of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the Yemeni people. It says that since the 30-state aggression against Iraq, Saudi Arabia and America have been involved in a systematic and comprehensive action to remove the Yemeni leadership and undermine Yemeni unity so as to enable reactionary forces linked to them to seize power as part of the process of liquidating nationalistic Arab forces in Yemen, Sudan, and elsewhere. [passage omitted]

Tanks, Armor Reported Deployed on Baghdad Streets

NC0305170293 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] According to reports received from Baghdad, tanks and armored vehicles have taken up positions in several quarters of Baghdad and stringent security measures have been taken in anticipation of any possible popular action in the capital.

The KURDISTAN [word indistinct] paper added that these measures involved Baghdad's main streets, including al-Jumhuriyah Street and al-Kifah Street, and this created tension in these quarters. Shop owners closed their shops to protest the regime's repressive measures.

'Sources' Predict Government Reshuffle

NC0305152193 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Differences within the ranks of the ostracized regime are worsening amid indications that the days of Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi are numbered.

Arrivals in Amman report that 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, defense minister of the ostracized regime, is a likely candidate for al-Zubaydi's job, as the tyrant tries to tighten his control of the government apparatus. The same sources predict that al-Majid will take a key role in the regime's future political structure, one through which Saddam Husayn hopes to project an image of a strong and durable regime.

Kurdish Areas Shelled 30 April, 1 May

NC0305170793 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] The Iraqi regime's heavy artillery shelled the outskirts of Chamchamal for 90 minutes last Friday [30 April]. The regime's forces shelled the (Shaykhangar) area near Talaw the same night. The shelling was repeated the next day when the regime's forces shelled the (Qasabat Nawjuz) areas at 1630.

Car Loaded With TNT Found in Kurdish-Controlled Area

NC0305172293 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Security authorities in Irbil Governorate have discovered a Brazilian-made booby-trapped car with 60 kg of TNT inside it and arrested the driver. He confessed that he planned the crime, which was discovered by the security men with the cooperation of citizens. An official in the Irbil security department said that interrogation of the defendant will end soon and he will be tried to be punished.

Rabin Defends Stand on Golan, Rejects Syrian Remarks

TA0405110893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 4 May 93

[Excerpt] Referring to reports that Golan Heights settlers are arming themselves, the prime minister said he will not permit the Heights to be turned into a second Lebanon. Yitzhaq Rabin said that there is no contradiction between a territorial compromise and his remarks that Israel will not descend from the Golan Heights. The prime minister was inaugurating a historical pavilion at Kibbutz Hashelosha. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv was there:

Israel will not withdraw from all of the Golan Heights. This can be understood from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks. He said, perhaps for the first time, that there is no contradiction between his statement that Israel will not descend from the Golan Heights and Labor's platform, which refers to territorial compromise on the Golan.

[Begin Rabin recording] Prior to the latest Knesset elections, Labor said that it was ready for a territorial compromise on all fronts in order to reach peace. Who said that there is a contradiction between territorial compromise and descending? [end recording]

In reference to reports that Golan settlers are arming themselves, the prime minister said that he will not permit Lebanonization within Israel.

Rabin rejected the remarks by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar', who said that Israel is holding up the negotiations with the Syrians.

[Begin Rabin recording] There is no truth to his remarks. This Israeli Government has gone further than any other government in trying to exhaust the chances to reach peace with Syria. We said that we accept Resolutions 242 and 338 as being applicable to achieving peace with Syria. We said we are prepared for a withdrawal on the Golan Heights to secure and recognized boundaries if Syria says openly that it aspires to reaching peace as we understand it—that is, open borders for the movement of people and goods; diplomatic relations, including embassies; and the normalization of relations. Of course, if we sign such a peace accord, we want it to stand on its own two feet and not depend on what is achieved or not achieved in the negotiations with the other delegations.

Syria has moved slightly forward by the very fact that it says that it is ready for full peace, although in return for full withdrawal. As long as Syria does not clarify what the term full peace means to it, it will be difficult to make progress on peace. We are currently facing an equation whereby Syria is making extreme demands—full peace, the meaning of which is unclear, in return for full withdrawal, while we are saying we are ready for a withdrawal and that the territorial dimensions will be decided when Syria clarifies its peace concept. I will add that we are not interested in interim arrangements with Syria. The aim with Syria is to reach peace. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Peres Comments on Talks With Syria, Plans for Autonomy

TA0405103893

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1840 GMT on 3 May carries a 13-minute live interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres within the weekly "Popolitika" talk show. The program is aired from the television studios before an audience and is anchored by Dan Margalit and cohosted by MA'ARIV editor Yosef Lapid.

Asked whether he concurs with fellow cabinet member Moshe Shahal, who, in exchange for full peace, is prepared to give back the entire Golan Heights, Peres says: "No, I think we should first hear from the Syrians about three issues, the first being what they mean by peace. The Syrians are playing a game I do not like at all. They talk peace, but they do not mean it. They want peace without embassies and without open borders. They claim they do not have an embassy in Kazakhstan either, but I do not know of them asking Kazakhstan to hand back the Golan Heights."

Peres goes on to say: "We have a delegation that is currently holding negotiations, and I do not think ministers should jump ahead of our delegation. Israel's positions are expressed by the delegation. It is inconceivable that you and I should conduct negotiations or that you should squeeze some promise or another out of me while our delegation is negotiating in Washington. That is totally out of line. Israel is on record as saying that it accepts the principle of withdrawal."

Asked whether he concurs with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's assertion that mistakes were made with regard to the settlements, the foreign minister says: "First of all, let me put your mind at ease. I have made mistakes, and I am not trying to hide it. I do not analyze mistakes because I think this serves no practical purpose. I am not a historian and I do not deal with history. History is rife with both mistakes and accomplishments. We have a given situation, and we should proceed to peace from there. I think we have started the negotiations on the right foot. I think a very good chance has been created, and I have a very good feeling about the government's current position. We should look ahead and advance on this arduous trek."

Asked why he would not come straight out and say that the Labor government is in the process of establishing a Palestinian state, Peres says: "First of all, we are not. There is a general national consensus about the autonomy, and that is why I proposed in the latest cabinet session that we announce our ultimate goal. I proposed that we announce that a political Jordanian-Palestinian federation or confederation and an economic framework made up of all three partners—the Palestinians, the Jordanians, and Israel—will ultimately be created." Asked whether this is news, Peres says: "Indeed, that is why you invited me to your program. I am talking about a Benelux-like arrangement. This is my opinion,

which I have never concealed. You will not scare me with a Palestinian state. I am opposed to it." Peres goes on to say: "What do you want? Do you want to be the policeman in Gaza forever? In 10 years there will be 1 million people there. The population is constantly growing; 35,000 new babies are born in Gaza every year. I am not the one who is dividing the land. I see a land that is divided between two peoples." Peres adds: "We say we are going for an arrangement in two phases, the first of which is autonomy or self-rule. In other words, this phase is not yet based on a map but on a timetable. It is a journey from one given situation to a new given situation. We are talking about self-rule, because it would be impossible to decide on a map at this point in time. Any map would be rejected either by us or by the Palestinians. That is why we say that instead of a map, let us have a timetable of five years. Let us replace the current climate with a new one, and let us discuss the permanent arrangement under the new climate."

Evaluates Current Round

TA0405044193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Speaking last night at a diplomatic corps reception for President Herzog, Foreign Minister Peres said elections in the territories do not constitute an immediate option. Reporter Jack Katzenell asked Peres for his evaluation of the current round of the bilateral talks:

[Begin recording] [Peres] Well, it looks like we are going to have a good opening, and we are praying for a good continuation.

[Katzenell] The Palestinians have not yet responded to the document which Israel submitted a long time ago. What grounds do you have for optimism this time?

[Peres] Well, they themselves made it public that they feel that this time it looks like we are entering the serious negotiations, and they too sound promising and positive.

[Katzenell] You don't get the impression that the talks with Syria are deadlocked?

[Peres] It's too early to judge. We are in the middle of the negotiations, and we can never tell what are the tactics or the declarations of every party. I wouldn't jump to conclusions.

[Katzenell] Do you feel that Israel ought to be promoting the elections in the territories?

[Peres] You know, I feel that while negotiating on a cluster of subjects, elections should be simply one of the topics. I don't suggest to stop the negotiations and go for elections.

[Katzenell] You don't feel that if there were an election campaign at this time, it would lead to violence and acrimony inside the Palestinian camp?

[Peres] Well, I don't see it as an immediate option right now. [end recording]

Peres 'Explicitly' Favors Dialogue With PLO

TA0305153793 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 3 May 93 p 4

[Report by Amnon Barzilay]

[Excerpts] In the wake of the peace talks' resumption, the Government of Israel yesterday launched a political discussion which reflected the present crossroads in the history of the peace process.

After delivering a political report, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin gave the floor to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who amazed the cabinet ministers by observing that the Government of Israel should seriously consider negotiating with the PLO. [passage omitted]

Peres depicted the Middle East in the era of peace, speaking explicitly in favor of a dialogue with the PLO. The foreign minister said we would soon have to decide on the nature of the permanent arrangement we would like to see. Peres added that he would like to see the Palestinian issue resolved in the political framework of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation and in an economic framework that would also include Israel. The foreign minister went on to say that constructive progress has been made on the Palestinian track, but when the Jerusalem issue is raised, the Syrians will not sign an accord without the Palestinians. Peres asked the ministers whether they thought al-Husayni was anything but the PLO. "Don't we in fact know they are the ones who make the decisions? Only with them will we be able to pass resolutions necessary for progress with the Palestinians."

Peres added that "the government should take advantage of the state of absolute mental shock of the right wing, which is silent because it does know what to say with regard to the closure." [passage omitted]

Beilin Denies Peres Remarks

TA0305154793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 May 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Mikha Friedman and Goni Mardor—live]

[Excerpts] [Friedman] Good evening, Deputy Minister Beilin.

[Beilin] Good evening.

[Friedman] Our first question refers to remarks attributed to your minister. Shim'on Peres is quoted in today's HADASHOT as having allegedly said at the cabinet meeting yesterday that the Government of Israel should seriously consider negotiations with the PLO. Has Peres made these remarks, to the best of your knowledge?

[Beilin] No. The truth is he has not. Since I did not attend the cabinet meeting, I asked him this morning. Normally I would have referred you to his spokesman,

but in this case, I can tell you he has not made these remarks. By the way, wouldn't you like to ask me this question?

[Friedman] Definitely. First, is that his position, and second, what is yours?

[Beilin] I think we have been speaking with the PLO since 30 October 1991, when Mr. Shamir first sat down opposite Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi.

[Mardor] Then why deny it, if we are talking with the PLO in any case?

[Beilin] The denial refers to Mr. Peres' remarks: The reply to the first question is that Mr. Peres simply did not say what he is quoted as having said yesterday. But to the point, I think Shamir broke a long-standing taboo, and since then, we have been playing word games. [passage omitted]

[Friedman] It seems that our approving Faysal al-Husayni's participation has contributed nothing to the process, because his standing in the territories is not as senior as is perceived here.

[Beilin] First of all, I do not know that he needs our approval. We do not appoint the other side's leaders. Faysal al-Husayni is a senior figure in the PLO-affiliated circles in the territories. Talking with him, we talk with a man of import. His electoral strength has been never tested because no elections have been held in the territories, and I do not know whether or when such elections will be held. In any event, I know no one who could be described as more influential than Faysal al-Husayni, who could be a better interlocutor. [passage omitted]

Peres Urges Islamic Leaders To Denounce Violence

TA0305160193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres conferred today with leaders of the Islamic Movement in Israel, and told them that the government does not consider their movement an enemy. Nevertheless, the foreign minister emphasized, they must understand that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the territories calls for attacks against Jews and incites against the peace process.

Peres said: Hamas gets its instructions from Iran. This war affects us all. The government will not allow such organizations to operate unimpaired and to kill the chances of peace. We expect you, the Arabs of Israel, to oppose and denounce violence. You must understand that the peace process is a compromise, and that no side will either win it all or lose it all.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the group meeting Minister Peres was headed by Shaykh 'Abdallah Darwish, the leader of the Islamic Movement. They complained that their expectations for an improvement in the condition of the Arab sector in the wake of Labor's rise to power had not been fulfilled.

East Jerusalem Residents To Vote in Autonomy Elections

NC0205080893 Paris AFP in English 0752 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Jerusalem, May 2 (AFP)—Israel is prepared to allow Palestinians living in East Jerusalem to vote in elections for a council to run the West Bank and Gaza Strip during a five-year autonomy period, foreign ministry sources said Sunday.

It is the first time since the peace process was launched at Madrid in October 1991 that an Israeli government is ready to let the 150,000 Palestinians vote in autonomy elections.

But the subject has not been broached so far during nine rounds of bilateral talks.

However Israel would impose three conditions, the sources told AFP. East Jerusalem will not be represented on the council, only East Jerusalem Palestinians with a second address in the occupied territories can stand for elections and voting stations must be set up outside the Jerusalem boundaries.

The council would be established in the framework of the autonomy period, after three years of which talks start to settle the final status of the territories.

Ex-premier Yitzhaq Shamir, who lost general elections last June, refused to consider any vote for East Jerusalemites fearing the status of Jerusalem, which Israel claims as its capital, would be considered open to negotiation.

Differences over the voting rights of Palestinians from East Jerusalem led to the collapse of the Likud-Labour national government in March 1990. Labour backed the vote for East Jerusalemites in line with the same three conditions above.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin insists nonetheless that the status of Jerusalem is not open to negotiation. Israel annexed the eastern sector after conquering it in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Moshe Katzav, head of the right-wing Likud parliamentary party, told Israeli radio Sunday that granting East Jerusalemites a vote in autonomy elections would "create a dangerous precedent".

"It's another unilateral concession to the Arabs from a government which is becoming more and more left-wing," Katzav said.

For the ninth round of talks which opened in Washington last Tuesday, Israel agreed for the first time to allow an East Jerusalemite to sit on the official Palestinian delegation.

Faysal al-Husayni, the leading PLO supporter in the territories, nonetheless has recently taken a second address on the West Bank.

Police Minister Says Palestinian Force To Follow Autonomy

TA0305111893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal told the Knesset Interior Committee that the establishment of a strong Palestinian police force in the territories is anchored in the Camp David agreements. He said that former Police Minister Roni Milo established a senior team, headed by current Police Commissioner Rafi Peled, to deal with planning the autonomy police force. Minister Shahal emphasized that the Palestinian police will be established only after the autonomy is set up. He said that a joint Israel Police, Shin Bet, IDF [Israel Defense Forces], and Defense Ministry team is currently working out the details for setting up the Palestinian police force and is simulating various scenarios within this framework. According to Shahal, the Camp David agreements stipulate that Jordanian, Israeli, and Egyptian officers will coordinate the operation of the Palestinian police.

Further Remarks on Force's Functioning

TA0405065093

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 4 May carries a recorded telephone interview with Police Minister Moshe Shahal by Shim'on Vilna'i, the police affairs correspondent in the Dan region, on the Palestinian police force to be set up in the autonomy.

The Israeli Police will continue to serve in the territories even when the autonomy is established, Police Minister Shahal says, adding that approximately 220 policemen from the latest recruitment will be added to the existing police force in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

"The residents of those areas knew about the Camp David agreements and that a police force—even a strong force—would be established there. The Israeli Police will continue to serve in the territories from its bases and its positions. Its authority will be over Israeli citizens living there and those visiting the region. Commanders and officers from all echelons of the two police forces—from field level to command level—will coordinate between the forces."

Asked when he believes the autonomy police will be established, Shahal replies: "We do not have a time frame. I think we are currently at a very important and critical stage of the talks. For the first time, there is progress in the readiness to discuss substance in the joint committees and to consider all those issues that require discussions of details as quickly as possible in order to reach and implement an agreement."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 4 May carries a related telephone interview with Minister Shahal by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan. Shahal says that if a dispute crops up between an Israeli and a local Palestinian under the autonomy "and the issue of which police force has the authority to act is raised, we will want a veto right, which will be given to the highest level, because this also raises the question of who has the power to bring to trial. These will be issues of principle to be resolved by either the police chief or police minister." Asked whether he thinks the Palestinians can agree to such a condition, Shahal replies: "We have red lines. We want to reach a situation whereby the local population will fall under the jurisdiction of the local police force with regard to criminal or civilian offenses. Israelis will come under the Israel Police, which will continue to remain deployed in the field. On joint issues, the two forces will coordinate action." Shahal says there will be "joint patrols, as specified in the Camp David accords. Security issues will remain with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], which will be deployed to make certain that the travel axes remain open, and there will be a joint traffic police."

Asked about reports that Jewish settlers intend to set up their own police force and threaten to shoot Palestinian police, the minister replies: "We have no information about such things. The Israel Police and the security forces are watching any activity by any side that violates the law or may potentially pose a danger to Israeli law. We will deal with each such case with our full might. This is a democratic country based on law, and we will act anywhere within our area of jurisdiction to make sure it is upheld."

Settlers Establishing Own Police Force in Territories

TA0305141093 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 3 May 93 p 3

[Report by Shlomo Dror and Aharon Klein]

[Text] Two weeks ago, the members of the Kakh organization's road safety committee announced their intention to establish their own police force, which will be called the Judaea police, as an alternative to the autonomy police. They distributed recruitment flyers in Judaea and Samaria, which got a massive response.

The committee has also recruited several instructors, including an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer, a police officer, and a shooting instructor who is a graduate of a sharpshooter's course. M., a moshav member from central Israel, who serves as a sharpshooter in a reserves infantry unit, said: "Our training will teach the fighters to fire in the air without hurting anyone; however, they will also be trained to shoot to hit people if that is the aim. He keeps an M-14 sharpshooter rifle and an M-16 assault rifle at home. The two rifles are IDF property. He

proudly showed us a telescopic sight for shooting at a distance of 900 meters and said he would teach his cadets to use it.

The first course begins next week. Part of the training will take place near Tall Furaydis and the rest in the northern part of the Judaean desert. The cadets will receive 18 hours of weapons training and many hours of first aid, survival tactics, and self-defense drills. The settlers' personal weapons will be used in the shooting exercises.

Over the past few years, M. has trained bus drivers in the territories to cope with firebombs, stones, and shooting attacks. He showed us a special sack he had developed. The sack is designed to cling to the weapon and collect the spent cartridges after it is fired. "This is very important if one wants to shoot at terrorists without being arrested by the police," he said.

This is the IDF's reaction to the preparations to set up another police force in the territories: Jewish residents of the territories can carry personal weapons issued by the IDF and use them in self-defense. According to Army regulations the weapons cannot be used for any other purpose such as in private shooting ranges, or any other training framework outside of the IDF. When issued the weapon, every resident of the territories is briefed on these regulations and is notified that any violation will lead to steps prescribed by military law.

Thousands Greet Returning Deportees

TA0305141993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Another 15 old-time deportees returned to Israel this afternoon. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that thousands of people, including most of the old-time deportees who returned to the territories last weekend, gathered at the 'Aqabat Jabr refugee camp near Jericho to greet them. 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi, who returned with the first group, told our correspondent that he may travel to Washington this weekend to join the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks.

More on Return

TA0305174593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Thirteen deportees, along with 30 of their relatives, returned to the territories this evening. Among them was Rawhi al-Khatib, a former mayor of East Jerusalem, and Kamal al-Dajani, a former Jordanian interior minister. Thousands of Palestinians greeted them at a soccer field in the 'Aqabat Jabr refugee camp hoisting PLO flags and chanting nationalist songs. Security troops escorted the bus driving the deportees on a security road bypassing Jericho to prevent the gathering of crowds in the town. Two deportees who had been scheduled to return today did not make it because they failed to arrange their papers.

Helicopters Return Safely From Lebanon Attack

TA0405051193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Israeli aircraft attacked a terrorist target in south Lebanon this morning. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman said the pilots reported accurate hits on the target. All our helicopters returned safely to base.

IDF Reserve Service To Be Halved by 1996

TA0305105493 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 3 May 93 p 4

[Report by Yo'av Kaspi]

[Excerpt] Reserve soldiers serving in rear units will see little reserve service in the next few years. This promise was made by Brigadier General Yisra'el Einhorn, head of the planning division in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Personnel Branch.

Brig. Gen. Einhorn says there is no plan to shorten the service of male IDF soldiers, at least not in the next three years: "We need all the new recruits to replace reservists." A committee, headed by reserve Major General Herzl Shafir, which is examining the desired length of military service for both male and female soldiers, is scheduled to submit its recommendations by the end of June.

From the beginning of 1991, the number of male recruits to the IDF has gone up by 18 percent. By 1996, the number of soldiers serving in the regular army is expected to increase by approximately 24 percent. This increase, partly attributed to the large aliya wave, is expected to more than halve the reserve days quota: from 10 million days in 1991 to less than 5 million in 1996.

Beginning next year, reserve soldiers will stop serving as guards and drivers or in the technical sphere. The money saved by cutting down on reserve days will be used for development and stockpiling purposes.

Brig. Gen. Einhorn adds: "Too many regular army soldiers are serving in rear units, especially in the Tel Aviv area. We are trying to transfer these soldiers to more advance units. In any event, we do not have such an excess of regular army soldiers as to enable us to shorten the term of regular army service for men before 1996." [passage omitted]

U.S. Said Planning New Gulf War, Fears Israel To Hit Iran

TA0405113993 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 May 93 p 2

[Report by Yo'av Kaspi]

[Excerpt] Iran will carry out its first nuclear test in 1996. This was reported yesterday by the newspaper AL-SHURUQ, on the basis of information it received from Henry Kissinger, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and other U.S.

and Israeli officials. The paper claimed that its source of information was a report prepared by an Arab diplomat in Europe. The report states that the Iranians are completing their final preparations for the test by carrying out small-scale laboratory experiments with the aid of scientists from Pakistan and other countries.

The paper also claims that U.S. circles are preparing for a third Gulf war, on a limited scale, at the beginning of 1994. AL-SHURUQ writes that the Americans fear that Israel will precipitate developments by launching a surprise attack on those Iranian installations which Israel and the United States claim will be used to carry out the first nuclear test. The surprise attack will be similar to the one launched against the Iraqi reactor in 1981. [passage omitted]

Morocco Invites Environment Minister to Conference

NC0305083593 Paris AFP in English 0731 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Jerusalem, May 3 (AFP)—Morocco has officially invited an Israeli minister to take part in an international conference in Casablanca for the first time, officials said Monday.

Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, who hopes to meet members of the Moroccan government, has been invited to a conference on environmental problems in the Middle East from May 23-25.

"It's the first time such an official invitation has been issued to a member of the Israeli government by the Moroccan authorities," one of Sarid's aides told AFP.

Israeli figures such as current Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and the late General Moshe Dayan have made secret missions to Morocco in the past.

Ministers or experts from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Saudia Arabia and Syria are expected to attend the World Bank-sponsored conference.

Sarid sits in the cabinet as a member of the left-wing Meretz party, the main coalition partner of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's Labour Party, and a supporter of direct talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation on the road to an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.

German Defense Minister Gives Impressions of Visit

AU3004143193 Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 30 Apr-1/2 May 93 p 6

["po" report: "Ruehe Very Impressed in Israel"]

[Text] Jerusalem—He is grateful to his Israeli hosts for the time they have given him, despite the fact that the Middle East peace process resumed at the same time, FRG Defense Minister Volker Ruehe told German journalists in Herzliyya on Wednesday evening [28 April]. Ruehe had followed an invitation by his counterpart (and Prime Minister) Yitzhaq Rabin and visited Israel for three days. According to Ruehe, the visit served the purpose of maintaining and deepening the tradition of close German-Israeli cooperation in the field of defense. In this spirit, two annual meetings at the general staff level have been agreed on. He himself wanted to exchange views with the new Israeli leadership and see Israel's security situation in connection with the peace process with his own eyes.

In his talks with Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, topical political issues were discussed, above all the potential changes in the Middle East, the war in Bosnia, the consequences of the crumbling of the Soviet Union, and the new role of a united Germany, Ruehe said. He explained, in detail, the German attitude toward Bundeswehr missions in areas of crisis and briefed the Israelis about the establishment of the crisis reaction forces as a NATO concept; he did not hear a word of Israeli criticism in this respect.

The talk with Peres dealt intensively with aspects of an Israeli agreement with Syria and the establishment of Palestinian autonomy. In particular, he was interested in the multinational sphere for the peaceful development of the region, for which he can envisage a constructive role being played by Europe.

Asked whether Israel should not be struck off the list of crisis countries to which the German arms embargo applies, Ruehe said that he is not responsible for this as defense minister, but the conditions and interpretations are constantly reexamined in Germany. None of his Israeli interlocutors suggested that they receive something in return for the Missile Approach Warner (an Israeli missile warning facility), which the Israelis have made available to the German Air Force, in a very unconventional way, for its Transall relief flights over Bosnia.

However, he did not come to Israel to buy something, the defense minister stated, reacting to speculation by the Israeli media about "sensational arms deals." There is neither a German promise of a third submarine for Israel, nor has he ordered Israeli combat planes or missiles. The Israeli armed forces, which he visited extensively, impressed him very much, Ruehe admitted, above all by their casual tone and the lack of bureaucracy.

Moldova To Receive Aid in Military Conversion

TA3004150493 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Apr 93 p C3

[Report by Zohar Blumenkrantz]

[Text] Israel will aid Moldova in converting military industries to civilian use, especially in electronics. Following a meeting between Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli and Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish the two sides agreed on a list of fields where industrial ties between the two countries can develop.

The main sectors discussed—besides military industry—were chemicals, telecommunications, wrapping material, pharmaceuticals, cables, and computer software. The aim is to find specific projects for cooperation, which will be dealt with by businessmen in both countries.

A delegation of Israeli businessmen will leave for Moldova after concrete information is transferred from one state to the other. It was also decided that the director of foreign trade in the Industry and Trade Ministry will hold discussions on a series of economic/trade agreements between the two states.

Harish said after the discussions that "Israel and Moldova agreed on how they would cooperate and the list of subjects which would constitute the start to economic ties between them."

The Jerusalem meeting was also attended by the foreign affairs and agriculture ministers, the deputy foreign trade minister, and the Moldovan prime minister's adviser.

Peres Protests Noninclusion in UN European Bloc

TA0305191893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Meeting today with members of the Council of Europe's Middle East Commission, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres criticized the fact that Europe is not prepared to include Israel in the European bloc with regard to membership in UN institutions.

Asked why Israel does not sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Peres said Israel will agree to a nuclear demilitarization of the region in a time of peace. He pointed out that Israel had recently signed the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Buwayz Comments on Peace Talks, Syrian Presence

NC0305181093 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 28 Apr 93 p 3

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by Ibrahim al-Amin, George 'Alam, and George Bakasini; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [AL-SAFIR] What is new that characterizes the ninth round of the Arab-Israeli peace talks? What are you expecting from it?

[Buwayz] The decision to postpone the participation for one week might not have meant much materially, but it meant a lot politically. In diplomatic language, it was a clear message that there is a problem and a crisis. It was a sort of ultimatum that we have postponed the talks for one week at this time and that we will boycott them at a subsequent stage if no progress is made. The importance of this postponement lies in the fact that we have reached a united Arab stand and that the Arabs have succeeded in sending the correct message. We have not made this decision without being aware of its effects.

What characterizes this round of talks is the realization of Yitzhaq Rabin's government that it is not the hero of the logic of rejection. The "Likud" is the hero of this logic. This new stand makes Rabin continue the peace process. If this process does not bear fruit, then he cannot exploit it domestically. Rabin also realizes that the race between rejection and moderation has become a grave matter in the Middle East. What is happening in Egypt is a clear signal of this. Should this matter further develop, it might weaken the moderate Arab wing and might even cancel its role. Therefore I believe that the Israeli side is now convinced that prevarication and procrastination have become quite dangerous. It will be difficult to ensure Arab participation in a new round of talks if this one does not yield results.

The United States also feels this. It has gone beyond the stage of getting to know the Middle East files. The U.S. Administration has taken its place and now realizes that the imbalance that emerged in the region in the wake of the Gulf war must be rectified through a just and more comprehensive peace, because this imbalance is behind the growth of the extremism phenomenon. The Egyptian warning is serious and major and is clearer than any others.

[AL-SAFIR] It is clear that the invitations to the ninth round carried new ideas. It was reported that a new concept has at least been proposed to the Lebanese side.

[Buwayz] There are U.S. proposals that have set the following role: The United States will play an effective role, the role of building bridges between the negotiating parties. It will overcome the obstacles and will move the parties toward practical and pragmatic ideas after determining the gist of the previous rounds. Therefore the United States invited all the delegations to change their method of presentation, from principled, legalistic ones into practical ones. Washington is convinced that the parties have talked for a year or more, that there are negative points but also positive ones, and therefore let us work on the positive ones and propose the mechanism for implementing them. There is a new pragmatic spirit. Lebanon, like the others, was asked to give substance for its demands through a mechanism for implementation.

[AL-SAFIR] What is specifically proposed with regard to the implementation of Resolution 425?

[Buwayz] The Americans have told us that Lebanon, which is seeking to retrieve its territories, has to propose a mechanism for implementation. The implementation might be done through a bilateral military committee that will lay down the program and timetable for Israel's withdrawal, that is, this committee will be formed after Israel's acceptance of withdrawal. By the time this committee starts its work, the Arab countries will also have presented their ideas, and hence, through consultation and coordination with them, Lebanon will pull ahead of all the fronts.

[AL-SAFIR] Should the Jordanian, Lebanese, and Syrian arenas be unable to thwart this development, will it be the same case with the Palestinian arena following what happened with the delegation? What is the role of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and its ability to thwart the negotiations?

[Buwayz] Let us be practical. It is true that the PLO no longer has the power it had in the past. But this does not mean that it has lost its position following the emergence of the Islamic forces. I believe that the PLO, and Yasir 'Arafat, remain the stronger party. When the PLO agrees with the negotiating team, then this means that it is strong and capable because this is not a delegation of technocrats but consists of figures that have status and influence inside the occupied territories. I call for seeing the situation as it really is and not be taken in by appearances. There is rejection but the PLO remains the representative [of the Palestinian people] and 'Arafat remains the Palestinian symbol. I do not think that the Palestinian issue is as complicated as is being said. There will be rejection, but in all the countries and not only in the Palestinian arena. [passage omitted]

[AL-SAFIR] It is being said that progress in the talks will reflect on the Lebanese domestic situation. In what way will it reflect it?

[Buwayz] First of all, it will have a psychological effect, because there are many Lebanese who believe, perhaps justly, that the domestic situation is inseparable from the regional and international situation. Lebanon's past and modern history has taught us that this logic is not wrong. Thus, I believe that there is a considerable psychological effect, but there is a political effect as well. The peace process will outline guidelines not just for Lebanon, but for all countries, to take into consideration while drafting and administering their policies as well as in charting their domestic policies. The internal situation in any country cannot be planned in isolation of regional

considerations, particularly in Lebanon, which is known for its sensitive position and openness. Thus, any progress in the peace process will give the regime a clearer picture according to which it could plan its domestic policies. Add to this the economic aspect, which is the most important of all aspects. There are many businessmen, companies, and institutions who believe that no matter how favorable the Lebanese domestic situation may be, it is not enough if the regional atmosphere is negative. But if the atmosphere changes, it will open the door for economic progress, investments, projects, etc. Thus, progress in peace will have an immediate and direct effect, not to mention the long-term effect of ending the ideological conflict in the region and ushering in new ideologies that give more attention to the domestic affairs of each country. If we take Lebanon as an example, we will find that the Arab-Israeli conflict represents the main program and the prominent ideology of most of the Lebanese parties. The dominant feature of these parties is either resistance or confrontation. Even the Christian parties are indirectly connected to this conflict whether they like it or not. A breakthrough in this issue will result in an ideological disengagement and an atmosphere of political "virginity" that will open the door for new concepts and ideologies and a new Arab and Lebanese thinking. So once peace is established, the Lebanese parties will have to adapt ideologically to this peace and adopt political ideas and concepts that suit this peace. This is a summary of the effects of peace. Add to this the effects resulting from the establishment of regional projects, the collapse of regional barriers, and the drafting of new legislation, not to mention what the multilateral talks may lead to. [passage omitted]

[AL-SAFIR] Some forces say that progress in the talks will affect the Syrian standing in Lebanon.

[Buwayz] In what way?

[AL-SAFIR] Will progress in the talks affect the Syrian influence in Lebanon, thus requiring a change in the status of the political classes in power? And does this mean the possible participation of forces outside power in a new government?

[Buwayz] I believe there are two types of relations with Syria. The first is the fundamental and basic relationship, which is not connected to the existence or nonexistence of peace but is related to some sort of constants and givens, whether there is peace or war in the region. This type of relationship must remain in all circumstances because it is based on history, geography, economic reality, and many other factors. The second relationship is an exceptional one that cropped up during the war and as a result of the Lebanese state's need, in the post-war era, for a specific degree of support from Syria. This type of relations is liable to crystallize, depending on the progress in the political situation toward security, political, and domestic self-reliance. This does not mean that the constants outlined in the Lebanese-Syrian treaty, which relate to a number of defense, foreign affairs, and other issues, are linked to any change in conditions and circumstances. On the one hand, there is a certain technical and factual case preventing the country from assuming control of the situation using its own resources, and this is liable to change. On the other hand, there are political constants that have nothing to do with the change in the situation. [passage omitted]

Deportee Spokesman Says 'New Steps' Planned After Sit-In

JN0405112493 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1025 GMT 4 May 93

[Report carried in "The Event" program]

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the struggler—God willing, returning—deportees, has announced that after staging their sit-in near the Zummarayya checkpoint, the deportees are studying new steps which will be announced later. At a news conference in Marj-al-Zuhur yesterday, Dr. al-Rantisi said: Had it not been for the storm that swept the area last Saturday we would have continued our sit-in at the crossing point until we return to our kinfolk.

Al-Rantisi added: We will accept only the implementation of Resolution 799 calling for our immediate and collective return to our people. The so-called Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks should work strenuously for the return of the 4 million Palestinians [outside the occupied territory].

Defense Minister on Military Assistance, Israeli Attacks

NC0305180393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1149 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Beirut, 3 May (MENA)—Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has disclosed that the Lebanese military establishment is in touch with the United States, Europe, and Arab countries to supply the Lebanese Army with the necessary weapons, munitions, and military equipment.

He said Lebanon has ordered the purchase of some military equipment and requested urgent assistance to boost the security and military mission of the Lebanese Army inside the country and on the border with Israel. This, he added, would help consolidate confidence in Lebanon's political and security stability.

Dallul told MENA that the United States lifted a ban on an old $10-million arms deal involving some necessary military supplies and needs. A Lebanese military mission, he added, is now visiting Germany to discuss the purchase of some military hardware left by the U.S. Army. He said the equipment will be renewed in Lebanon and its price will be paid after an agreement has been reached.

Dallul said the Lebanese Government made several requests to Arab and European countries to increase

their financial assistance to the Lebanese Army. He said some Arab countries, such as Syria, responded, and Lebanon still hopes that other Arab and European countries will increase their military assistance to Lebanon at this stage.

Strengthening the military capability, Dallul said, is one of the priorities of the Lebanese Government, with a view to imposing Army control throughout Lebanese territory. He noted successes in disarming the militias, raiding some arms caches, and expanding the deployment of the Army, which now controls more than 80 percent of Lebanon's territory, excluding the occupied lands.

Dallul said the Army takes most of the credit for the political and security stability in Lebanon. Therefore, it should receive further Arab and international financial and other assistance.

On the continuing Israeli escalation in south Lebanon, Dallul said this is part of Israel's continuous attempts to exert all possible pressure on the Lebanese negotiator to force major concessions at the negotiating table in Washington and continue occupation of Lebanese territory.

He said the Lebanese Government insists that the only solution to its problem with Israel is the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 and the immediate Israeli withdrawal from the south and western al-Biqa'.

He emphasized that the release of Lebanese prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons is a national issue to which the Lebanese Government is turning all attention, whether in the international arena or at the negotiating table.

The Lebanese defense minister said his country rejects any Israeli attempt to discuss the formation of a joint military committee to supervise security arrangements in the south and western al-Biqa'. But Lebanon accepts such a committee if its only objective is to set a mechanism for an Israeli military withdrawal from the Lebanese territory after Israel announces its commitment to the implementation of Resolution 425.

Islamic Resistance Claims Attack on Israeli Patrol

NC0205061593 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] The Martyr Akram Mansur group of the Islamic Resistance detonated an explosive charge near a Zionist enemy vehicular patrol on the al-Khardali-Arnun road yesterday morning, destroying a vehicle and killing or injuring its crew. The enemy admitted a Zionist soldier was killed in the operation. The Islamic Resistance issued a statement hailing the Islamic intifadah in Palestine and pledging the leader imam and the martyrs of the Islamic Resistance to continue the fight against the Zionist enemy until it is uprooted.

Mortar Fire on SLA Post; Hizballah Claims Crossing Attack

NC0405093593 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Our correspondent in the border strip has reported that the Sahqif al-Naml position, which belongs to the South Lebanese Army [SLA], was attacked by several 120-mm mortars at 0900 today. The mortar fire extended to the Bayt Yahun crossing. Citizens were wounded, two cars were damaged, and the crossing was closed.

A statement by Hizballah said the Martyrs Muhammad 'Atwah and Ibrahim Milki Group of the Islamic Resistance carried out an attack with machine guns and rockets against the Bayt Yahun crossing at 0900 today. The statement added that a car belonging to the Israeli intelligence was damaged during the attack and that the Israeli positions in Haddathah and Bayt Yahun received direct hits.

Israeli 'Barrage' of Villages in South Continuing

NC0405083893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] We have just received the following report: Since 0930, the villages of 'Ayta al-Jabal, Haddatha, Tibnin, and Bra'shit have been coming under a concentrated rocket and artillery barrage of various calibers from the occupied border strip and the hills where Israeli forces are deployed. There are no reports on casualties. The shelling is continuing. Schools and shops in these villages have been closed.

Israelis Said To Kill 2 Resistance Men in Clash

NC0405061193 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Our correspondent cites security sources as saying that Israeli troops clashed with a group of the Islamic resistance in the border strip and killed two of its members last night. The source did not specify the scene of the clashes.

Family Wounded in Israeli Raid on Citizen's Home

NC0405053993 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] An Israeli raid targeted the township of Kafr Tibnit this morning.

According to our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah, Israeli helicopters fired missiles at the home of Haj Ibrahim Zaytun, wounding several people, including Bassam Muhammad Tabarja, 25, his wife Zaynah, and their children Mustafa and Zahrah.

Paper Suspended After ICN Closure; Reaction Reported

Charged With Disturbing Security

NC3004165693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] After examining reports published by NIDA' AL-WATAN newspaper on 25 April that harmed the state's internal security, incited sectarianism among the citizens, and libeled officials inside and outside the country, and after examining the paper's 30 April issue, in which the paper's management persisted in their policy to incite sectarianism and disturb security, Higher Attorney General Fawzi Abu-Murad has issued an order suspending the publication of NIDA' AL-WATAN for one week starting today. Abu-Murad also ordered that all issues of the paper be confiscated.

This order will be conveyed to all those concerned and will be carried out by the public security director, the internal security forces director, the state security director, and the other security bodies.

Reasons for Closure Detailed

NC3004165593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1101 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Beirut, 30 Apr (MENA)—Lebanese judicial authorities have decided to suspend publication of the Lebanese opposition newspaper NIDA' AL-WATAN for one week starting today for publishing news and political commentaries that harm state security, incite sectarian feuds, and libel officials inside and outside the country.

On 25 April, the paper published an article on a plan by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri to Islamize Lebanon and purchase property owned by Christians.

The Beirut Public Prosecutor's Office issued the order to suspend the paper and confiscate all of today's issues from Lebanese markets according to the Publications Law. The Internal Security Forces also sealed the newspaper office with red wax.

The Lebanese authorities' decision to suspend publication of the newspaper, which is headed by Rajih Khuri, comes one day after yesterday's decision to suspend transmissions by the private Independent Television Network, ICN. According to the suspension order issued by the public prosecutor, the television station broadcast films and political commentaries calling for revolution, sectarian sedition, public disorder, and overthrowing the regime.

NIDA' AL-WATAN and ICN Television are run by the Independent Institution for Media owned by wealthy businessman Henry Sfayr, a prominent Christian opposition figure in Lebanon who was defeated in the recent parliamentary elections.

Commenting on the order to close the newspaper and television station, Sfayr said: We constitute political, not military resistance. He expressed his rejection of this decision, which is incompatible with democracy and freedom of speech.

'Awn Criticizes Closures

NC0105075593 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0700 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Commenting on the Lebanese authorities' decision to close down two opposition media services—ICN Television Station and NIDA' AL-WATAN—on charges of publishing reports that harm state security and disturb peace, [Former Lebanese Army Commander] General Michel 'Awn expressed regret, adding: I believe that some media services have been liquidated and others are being liquidated through bribery.

In an interview with French radio yesterday, 'Awn said that ICN and NIDA' AL-WATAN have been silenced by force. He said: Regrettably, the Lebanese regime continues to strangle freedom of expression and human rights.

Buwayz on 'Conspiracies'

NC0205194293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 May 93

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has called on the government to speed up the introduction of the media law and not to judge things by their appearances. He said some media conspiracies are being hatched with a great deal of malice. This, he added, makes it necessary for the government to lay down a system that goes beyond evident conspiracies.

What happened with the Independent Cable News and NIDA' AL-WATAN newspaper, Buwayz said, was not a policy trend so much as it was a measure dictated by certain mistakes. If it transpires that the measure is part of a policy trend seeking to restrict freedoms, then we will not accept it, he said. [passage omitted]

Al-Hariri on Freedom of Information

NC0105080993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has pointed out that there is no objection to criticism leveled against government officials, irrespective of their position. But the government cannot remain indifferent when the very basis of the Lebanese entity and Lebanese unity are exposed to danger because of suspect claims. Press Association Chairman Muhammad al-Ba'labakki said al-Hariri said this after he visited him today at the head of an association delegation inviting him to attend the inauguration of the new Press Association building in al-Ruwshah.

Prime Minister al-Hariri said: No one in the government is contemplating harming the freedom of information, but there are matters that should be avoided, such as attempts to revive division among the people.

Fadlallah, Hizballah Comment

NC0105074393 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 May 93

[Excerpts] The public prosecutor's decision to close the ICN [Independent Cable News] television station and suspend publication of the newspaper NIDA' AL-WATAN for one week have provoked various reactions expressing the gravity of what has happened. [passage omitted]

Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has rejected any infringement of media freedom in Lebanon, saying Lebanon's value lies in its media and ideological freedom and in enabling all parties to express their opinions and ideas. Therefore, we must handle the issue of infringement on the media cautiously. At the same time, Fadlallah rejected the attempts to use media and political freedoms to arouse sectarian feelings that lead to sedition and fighting. He said: We are against any political or media quarters intensifying the dispute among the Lebanese factions.

For its part, the central media unit of Hizballah considered this step a serious measure for which the government is directly responsible although it is a judicial measure. Its gravity lies in the fact that it represents a precedent on which the government might establish a program for dealing with the opposition media services, which have the natural right to criticize the government's policy and performance.

The media unit asked: In light of the problems and crisis facing the country, does the government expect the private media services to become mouthpieces praising the government instead of playing their role in correcting the situation? Regardless of the political background of certain media services, we cannot remain neutral when the issue concerns media freedom. We will support the freedom of speech against the policy of muzzling voices. We will support the right to oppose and differ with the mentality of the sultans and amirs and the mentality of suppression and confiscation.

By embarking on this measures, the government contradicts its repeated claims about its concern for the freedom of expression and its respect for a democratic atmosphere.

Journalists, Editors 'Regret' Decision

NC0305173493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] The Journalists and Editors Associations have announced regret at the suspension of the newspaper NIDA' AL-WATAN and called for objective handling of the matter in accordance with the law. The Journalists Association's Council noted that freedom, which the press is eager to preserve, must be employed to serve the supreme national principles and goals, while the Editors Association's Council voiced support for freedoms and opposition, provided they are free of factionalism, sedition, and division.

ICN Closure Based on 'Discrimination'

NC0405080693 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 30 Apr 93 p 13

[Article by Jihad al-Zayn: "Political Assault Against Media"]

[Excerpts] ICN [Independent Cable News] has been closed for political reasons. This is how the issue should be viewed in a country where the media climate, as everybody knows, greatly annoys some circles.

We will keep the judiciary out of the conflict. The source of the controversy is not the public attorney's decision, but the political decision of the "state," represented by the information minister and with the solidarity of the Council of Ministers.

Had the closure been based on a law organizing the state of the media, its traditional sector (newspapers) and modern (radio and television), no one could have accused the political decision of being discriminatory. In ICN's case, the charge of discrimination cannot be avoided. [passage omitted]

Instead of taking this oppressive measure, the Council of Ministers should have tried to reach a new plan organizing the media technically, politically, and financially. Such a plan should pass the constitutional institutions after general national debate (it has already started) in a country that is rapidly becoming a "media state." [passage omitted]

What happened yesterday, through a political decision (we again keep the judiciary out of the controversy), recalls the decision of 'Umar Karami's government to combine newscasts!

The essence of the problem is that the closure of ICN is a political decision.

Closing all private television stations for technical or legal reasons would probably have been more "justified" than yesterday's closure. The discrimination is a more serious problem.

Al-Zu'bi Notes Israeli 'Maneuvers' in May Day Address

JN0105134193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 May 93

[Excerpts] Under the auspices of President Hafiz al-Asad, the working class and its trade unions in Syria celebrated May Day, the international workers day, by holding a rally this morning at the headquarters of the Cables Company in Damascus. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi represented President al-Asad at the rally. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister al-Zu'bi delivered a speech on the occasion, in which he began by conveying the greetings of President Hafiz al-Asad to the working class and its faithful masses. [passage omitted]

The prime minister spoke about Israeli maneuvers aimed at evading the requirements of peace, and stressed that the peace talks that began in Madrid are currently facing fabricated Israeli obstacles that constitute a threat to the peace march unless the cosponsors of the talks take the initiative and advance them in accordance with the principles on which they were based.

Al-Zu'bi stressed that pursuing the path of cooperation and coordination among the Arab countries to the peace talks, and enhancing the unified Arab position is the only way to guarantee the attainment of real peace. It is also the only way for the Arabs to confront various challenges.

At the end of his speech, al-Zu'bi spoke about political and economic pluralism in Syria, and legislation which has encouraged investment. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Meets With Japanese Envoy, Comments on Peace Process

JN0305181893 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1800 today Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, head of the Parliamentary Society for Japanese-Syrian Friendship [title as heard] and his delegation.

The meeting was attended by Shakir Is'ayyid, head of the Foreign Relations Committee at the People's Assembly who is the head of the Syrian-Japanese Friendship Society, and Minoru Kubota, Japan's ambassador in Damascus.

Mitsuzuka conveyed a message from Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to the president dealting with bilateral relations.

Talks at the meeting dealt with the situation in the region and the peace process. Mitsuzuka hailed the Syrian role in the region and its efforts aimed at realizing peace.

President al-Asad stressed that Syria, which opened the door for the peace process through accepting the initiative that is based on establishing just and comprehensive peace on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace, will continue to work for a just and comprehensive peace.

Mitsuzuka conveyed an invitation to visit Japan to the president from Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa. The president accepted the invitation and promised to respond to it at the appropriate time.

Al-Asad Invited To Visit Japan

OW0405034693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0254 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Cairo, May 4 KYODO—Syran President Hafiz al-Asad met a leading policymaker of Japan's ruling party on Monday and agreed to visit Japan, news reports from Damascus said.

The president received an invitation for his Japan visit when he met Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, chairman of the Policy Affairs Research Council of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), who is in Syria on an official trip since Sunday.

The Syrian Government has not yet set a date for the president's visit, according to the reports.

Turkish Interior Ministry Official Arrives

JN0305114593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0745 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Damascus, 3 May (SANA)—Fahri Ozturk, undersecretary of the Turkish Interior Ministry, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus early this morning on a visit of several days to the Syrian Arab Republic. He will hold talks with Interior Ministry officials.

He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Major General Ahmad Sa'id al-Salih and Ahmad Hilal, assistants to the interior minister; Interior Ministry directors; al-Hasakah governor; the Damascus Rural Area police commander; and the Turkish ambassador and Embassy staff in Damascus.

Official Talks Begin

JN0305153893 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1425 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Damascus, 3 May (SANA)—At noon today, the first round of official talks was held at the Interior Ministry between the Syrian side, led by Major General Ahmad Sa'id al-Salih, assistant to the interior minister, and for the Turkish side, led by Fahri Ozturk, Turkish Interior Ministry undersecretary. The talks were attended by members of the two delegations and the Turkish ambassador in Damascus.

The two sides discussed issues of mutual concern in the interior ministry field, how to jointly develop and entrench bilateral cooperation, and the need to cooperate in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

The two sides stressed their joint desire to implement the security agreement concluded between the countries and to combat crime and drug trafficking to safeguard the security, safety, and stability of the two countries.

The two sides were satisfied with the measures adopted in all fields. They hailed the spirit of bilateral cooperation, which is based on mutual respect and aimed at realizing the joint objectives and interests.

Information Minister Confers With Sudanese Counterpart

JN0205112193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman this morning received Staff Brigadier General Muhammad Sulayman, member of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation and Sudanese minister of culture and information. 'Uthman al-Dardiri, the Sudanese ambassador in Damascus, attended the meeting. Talks dealt with the Syrian-Sudanese media relations.

Press on Continued Israeli 'Maneuvers,' U.S. Credibility

JN0105093593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0440 GMT 1 May 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN today comments on the progress of the ninth round of the Middle East peace talks currently taking place in Washington. The paper affirms that Israel has resumed its maneuvers and prevarication and insistence on its old proposals. Israel has merely offered new disappointing wordings for these proposals. Suffice to say here that the Israeli side has wasted the sessions of the ninth round of talks on the Syrian track talking about a vague withdrawal without any commitment or even pledge to such withdrawal as stipulated by the UN Security Council resolutions.

TISHRIN discusses the Israeli claims and fabrications regarding the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, describing them as sheer meaningless delusions. The Arabs have not gone to Washington after a more than four-month hiatus in the peace talks to listen to more Israeli maneuvers and tricks; they have gone to Washington to create a just, comprehensive, and real peace.

TISHRIN affirms that wasting time in sterile and illusory discussions, as Israel wants the ninth round to be, will negate all that has been propagated about the existence of serious indications and intentions of activating and advancing the talks to achieve a just, comprehensive peace.

The paper says: The United States and Israel know that the Arabs have agreed to resume the talks and take part in the ninth round of talks simply because there have been clear and specific U.S. pledges that Israel will substantially change its stands and seriously deal with the elements and bases of peace, and that this round, unlike the previous ones, will not be a waste of time.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Peace is indivisible, and so is occupation. There is no acceptable and unacceptable occupation. First, and before anything else, the occupation and all its manifestations and political, settlement, and economic results must be fully removed so that peace can be achieved in the region. As long as Israel continues its maneuvers and prevarication, then there is nothing new in the peace process.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH also editorializes on the progress of the ninth round of talks and the Israeli illusions on which Rabin is wagering. The paper refers to the importance of U.S. credibility with respect to the peace talks. It affirms that this credibility is once again being put to a hard test—probably the hardest ever. The paper says that this comes following declared U.S. pledges to play the role of a full partner—a phrase that the United States itself has launched. We hope that the United States will play this role so that the famous terms: double standards, bias, discrimination, and others, which apply to the U.S. Administration's treatment of Israel, would not be entrenched. In this context, for example, when there is something that concerns only Israel, we are told: Do not expect further U.S. action.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says that the next few days of the ninth round must provide an explicit answer. The U.S. credibility will continue to face a hard test until Israel is forced back into the realm of international legitimacy. This is required from the United States in order that it regains Arab and international trust. The peace process is the criterion.

In another article, AL-THAWRAH says: The Arabs are committed to the formula of full peace in return for full, comprehensive withdrawal. However, Israel rejects such a formula and avoids any discussion of the core of the negotiations, which means that no full peace can be achieved without a comprehensive withdrawal from all occupied territories and on all fronts. This formula is stated within the Syrian document which was presented during the sixth round of the peace talks.

The paper adds that the Rabin government demands that the Arabs abandon their territories and rights. This government wants the Arabs to give it peace and normalization. At the same time, Israel refuses to give any pledge to implement UN Security Council resolutions. It ignores the fact that it is responsible for the failure of eight previous rounds of talks and that the negotiations reached a dead end at the eighth round because of its anti-peace policy.

AL-THAWRAH adds that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who is leading the ugliest campaign of terror and killing inside the occupied territories and rejects the principle of comprehensive withdrawal from the occupied territories, is the same person who formed

an Israeli government last June and promised to expedite the peace negotiations, which kicked off in Madrid on 30 October 1991. However, because of his racist policy, he finds himself today face to face with further violence, blood, and knives. This is because he is still primarily concerned with outdoing the racist Israeli right wing in denying the Palestinian Arab rights, attracting further Jewish immigrants, expanding settlements, especially in occupied Jerusalem, and in violating the Palestinian human rights.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: The principles of peace are known and explained by the UN resolutions and international legitimacy. The Arabs adhere to these principles because they guarantee security for all parties in the region. Responsibility for establishing peace remains with the U.S. sponsor and partner who launched the peace initiative. The United States should prove its credibility and free itself of influence of the Israeli policy, which adheres to expansion and aggression.

Commentary Calls Occupied Lands 'Holy as Peace Itself'

JN0105151693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1145 GMT 1 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Rabin's government has not made the slightest change in its policy aimed at circumventing Security Council resolutions and the essence of the peace process, believing that it can, by offering slight concessions and playing a two-sided game, divide the united Arab position and prolong the negotiations to abort efforts aimed at realizing a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

The Israeli side has presented the Syrian delegation with old proposals in a new form. Still, the contents of these proposals remain the same. Syria rejected the proposals when they were first presented because they contradict the pillars of the peace process, the principle of land for peace, and the Security Council resolutions. Their resolutions do not refer to complete withdrawal from the Golan, but to withdrawal from the Golan. Our delegation to the talks has presented the formula of full peace in exchange for full withdrawal.

It was clear from the Israeli side's statements, prevarications, and questions about the meaning of peace that Israel is trying to evade the requisites of a just settlement, topped by full withdrawal from the Golan and all the occupied territories.

The Israeli rulers also raised a strong clamor about allowing 30 old-time Palestinian deportees to return home. They considered this to be a great concession, though hundreds of other deportees were not allowed to return and 400 Palestinian deportees are still in the open in front of the Zummrayya crossing in the occupied south Lebanon, and they demonstrate daily to ask the Security Council to implement Resolution 799 calling for their immediate return. Israel has used this incident to provide a cover for its escalating crimes in the occupied Arab territories, and to give the illusion that the Palestinian-Israeli talks in Washington are making progress and that it will show more flexibility.

It is a known fact that the rulers in Tel Aviv, topped by Yitzhaq Rabin, are relentlessly seeking to divide the ranks of the Arab negotiators. During the eighth round, they hinted that there was progress in the Syrian-Israeli talks, and that an agreement was imminent. Today, they are playing the same game by speaking about progress on the Palestinian track, though talks along the three tracks are still confronted by Israeli intransigence. The Tel Aviv rulers refuse to openly and firmly pledge to withdraw from all territories occupied in 1967 and 1982, and to fully implement Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

Yitzhaq Rabin was very clear when he announced in the Gaza Strip that he refuses to return to the 1967 borders, thus violating the principle of land for peace, the principles of the Madrid conference, and UN resolutions which annulled the measures of annexation, Judaization, and settlement, and asked Israel to fully withdraw, respect the Palestinian people's rights, and refrain from changing the features of the occupied land.

The Arabs want peace, but they want a real and honorable peace that returns to them all the occupied territories, foremost among them being Jerusalem and the Golan. They also want comprehensive peace on all fronts of the conflict. It is unlikely for any Arab party to conclude a separate deal or a partial settlement. Such deals cannot make peace. The first principles of peace require an end to occupation, repression, and oppression, and the return of rights to their owners. Neither Syria, nor any other Arab party will accept partial Israeli withdrawal and relinquish the national land. The land is as holy as peace itself. Peace and occupation can never coexist.

Israel's rulers are asked to not waste time and efforts. They are also asked to devote the talks of the ninth round to the service of real and stable peace—the peace of right, justice, and international law. The Security Council resolutions are clear. They call for complete Israeli withdrawal. There is no room for circumventing these resolutions, playing with words, or playing a two-sided game.

In their adherence to a just and comprehensive peace, the Arabs are united and have one voice. The Israelis will never find a hole through which they can divide the unity of Arab ranks or market their false peace proposals, no matter what attempts they make.

There is no alternative for the cosponsors of the peace process, particularly the United States, other than to interfere and make things clear, bringing Israel's rulers face to face with the facts, foremost being that the required withdrawal must be full and comprehensive, and that full and comprehensive withdrawal is not the demand of the Arabs alone, but that of the entire

international community as well. Occupation of even part of the land is considered an act of aggression, and aggression can never be tolerated.

Israeli 'Clamor' Over Return of Deportees Dismissed

JN0205081093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0442 GMT 2 May 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN editorializes on the fabricated clamor created by the Israeli Government over its agreement to allow 30 Palestinian deportees to return in two batches. The paper refers to what has been propagated by Israeli circles to the effect that there has been progress in the talks on the Palestinian track. However, it is known that none of the three tracks have witnessed any progress and that allowing the return of some Palestinians from among thousands of deportees is merely an attempt to conceal the crime of uprooting hundreds of Palestinians four months ago.

TISHRIN affirms that the Tel Aviv rulers' tricks can fool neither the Arabs nor any observer of Middle East developments. The only criterion for Israel's commitment to the peace process is an explicit, categorical pledge to withdraw from all occupied Arab territories and to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

TISHRIN says: The problem has been created by the Tel Aviv rulers' failure to abide by the provisions of the UN resolutions calling for a full, comprehensive withdrawal, the abrogation of the measures of annexation and Judaization, the halting of settlement activity, and an end to the process of changing the features of the occupied territories. They want peace in return for a withdrawal in meters and returning some Palestinians. In return, they demand the Arabs to cede everything.

TISHRIN indicates that the Arabs are expecting the international community, especially the cosponsors of the peace process, to make the Tel Aviv rulers fully implement the UN Security Council resolutions. Regarding Israel's statements about progress on the Palestinian track and earlier statements pointing to progress on the Syrian track, TISHRIN says that such statements are an attempt to deceive the world public opinion, undermine the unity of the Arab negotiating position, and weaken Arab adherence to a just, comprehensive peace on all fronts of the conflict.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The only criterion for progress in the negotiations is Israel's compliance with UN resolutions and starting to implement them on the ground through a timetable leading to a full, comprehensive withdrawal from the occupied territories. In this case, the Arabs are ready to give peace and to fully honor all its requirements.

Commentary Says Israel Wants Both Land, Peace

JN3004160293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1137 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The first week of the ninth round of the Washington talks has not produced anything new with regard to the intransigent Israeli stand. Just like previous rounds, this round of talks has run into the expansionist ambitions of the Tel Aviv rulers. For one thing, the Israeli negotiating delegation to the talks with Syria deemed complete withdrawal from the Golan in return for full peace an unacceptable equation. Second, the Israeli delegation to the peace talks with the Lebanese side has chosen to refrain from talking about the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425. Third, the Israeli delegation to talks with the Palestinians has failed to offer any ideas worth noting. All the Arab sides participating in the ninth round of talks feel that Israeli ideas remained unchanged despite the promises made regarding gestures and measures that would be introduced to advance the peace process.

The Syrian-Israeli talks in particular have shown the continued intransigence of the Tel Aviv rulers and their efforts to swallow up whatever they could of the occupied territories. These rulers welcomed the full peace premise. However, they have found the second part of the equation, which is complete withdrawal, objectionable. They only offered to make a partial withdrawal from the Golan, in violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, the terms of reference agreed upon for the Madrid conference, and the key principle guiding the peace process and the U.S. initiative; namely, the land-for-peace formula.

The Tel Aviv rulers want to have full peace. In return, they are willing to offer only part of the territory. As usual, they advance security reasons, even though peace is the greatest and strongest guarantee for security and stability in the Middle East. Worse still, they are engaging in blackmail while addressing a serious and noble cause; namely, the cause of peace. They are not making a serious effort to rid the region of the whirlpools of wars and conflicts and create a bright future for the peoples of the region—one that is free of blood, tragedies, and calamities. They deem their willingness to return part of the occupied territories the height of sacrifice. To add insult to injury, they believe that the Arabs have to offer peace, no matter what. Indeed, it must be recalled that the occupied territories are Arab, that Arab rights to these territories are inalienable, and that UN resolutions as well as various statements issued by the highest world bodies recognize these territories to be Arab.

If we are to consider what the Arabs and Israelis are required to offer to settle the Middle East conflict, we will find that the Arabs have offered a great deal and made immense sacrifices, whereas the Israeli contributions to make peace a reality remain negligible. The

Arabs are offering peace and demanding nothing in return, except the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, which provide for the return of all occupied Arab territories. If it returns these territories, Israel would not be making a donation of Israeli territory to achieve peace. Indeed, it would be returning only the territories it usurped by war, and which it has been occupying for more than a quarter of a century. Such a return of territory would be in implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

The world nowadays no longer condones any form of aggression, nor hotbeds of tension. The international community is determined to repulse aggressors and to terminate their aggression. It is no coincidence that it was the United States that launched the Middle East peace initiative and proposed the land-for-peace formula. The Israeli aggression, which has continued for scores of years, is no longer acceptable by anybody. Besides, nobody can any longer cover up for Israeli crimes, or pay for Israeli expansionist and aggressive acts for that matter.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has, on several occasions, expressed his determination to advance the peace process. But, he immediately hastens to place obstacles in the path of the Washington talks by pursuing a brutal policy in the occupied territories—a policy marked by oppression, subjugation, deportation, and house demolition, and also by announcing that Israel will not withdraw its troops to the pre-June 1967 borders and that Jerusalem is unnegotiable. In other words, Yitzhaq Rabin is asking the Arabs to concede part of their territory and to offer the Israelis full peace. This request is rejected in part and parcel. For the Arabs have declared that they will not abandon a single inch of the occupied territories, that they will not give up a single national or pan-Arab right, and that the achievement of peace is contingent upon the restoration of the Golan, Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and southern Lebanon in full, and also upon enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate national rights, foremost among which is their right to self-determination.

The Arabs have underscored that complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories is a basic condition for peace, and that there is no room for bargaining over Arab rights and territory. We do not believe that there is anybody in the world demanding the Arabs to offer Israel both peace and territory at the same time.

Afghanistan

Further on Factions' Jalalabad Talks on Cabinet

LD0305165693 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Jehadi leaders' bilateral and trilateral meetings with the participation of esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of Afghanistan, and Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, prime minister designate, continued today in Jalalabad. The discussions dealt with the formation of a cabinet and the continuation of the cease-fire.

Answering a BIA correspondent, esteemed Abdol Aziz Morad, head of the Presidency Press Office, said: At yesterday evening's joint session, the esteemed prime minister was asked to arrange a new cabinet list agreed to by all jehadi leaders. Also discussed was communication with Kabul and the opening of a road to Kabul. Esteemed Abdol Aziz Morad added: The meetings and talks of the esteemed jehadi leaders are aimed at reaching agreement on such settlements that can be implemented and are acceptable to all sides. The continuation of meetings and extended talks in order to find ways of taking the country out of the current situation make us hopeful that, if God pleases, an agreement will be reached on forming a cabinet and implementing a cease-fire, and for permanent peace and security to be ensured in the country. The Presidency's Press Office head added: Over the past few days talks were conducted on the formation of a cabinet; discussions have not been conducted on any specific post in the cabinet.

Bangladesh

Security for Prime Minister Tightened After Colombo Blast

BK0405090493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0723 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Dhaka, May 4 (AFP)—Security for Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has been beefed up after Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa was assassinated by a suicide bomber, a newspaper reported here Tuesday.

The premier's security staff were put on full alert for all public appearances following the weekend Colombo blast that also killed 17 others, the opposition SANGBAD newspaper said quoting reliable sources.

It added that restrictions were also tightened around her offices and security cover was extended for a number of ministers.

Zia, who succeeded Premadasa in the chair of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in April, will fly to Colombo on Thursday to attend the funeral of slain leader.

Bangladesh condemned the assassination and declared a three-day state mourning which ends Tuesday.

SAARC groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Leaders Send Condolences on Death of Premadasa

BK0105152493 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] In a message, President Abdur Rahman Biswas sent condolences on the tragic death of President Premadasa of Sri Lanka in a bomb blast in Colombo today. He said the late president, Premadasa, was a great friend of Bangladesh. The president said that Sri Lanka has lost a great leader. He added that everybody would remember the contributions made by the late leader for establishing world peace and forging regional cooperation. President Biswas said that Premadasa was a great leader of the South Asian region and added that his death is an irreparable loss for all of us. The president conveyed his heartfelt sympathy to the people of Sri Lanka and also to the members of the bereaved family. He also prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has also expressed her deep grief at the killing of President Premadasa. Begum Zia condemned the killing and said that she has been deeply shocked by the killing of President Premadasa, who was a great leader. The prime minister said that the people of Bangladesh have lost a true friend and added that the billion people of the South Asian region have lost a farsighted and pro-people leader. Begum Zia, who is the current chairperson of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], said the contributions made by the late president for forging cooperation in South Asia will remain fresh in our memories.

The leader of the opposition in the parliament, Sheikh Hasina, has also expressed condolences on the death of the Sri Lankan president.

Prime Minister To Attend Premadasa's Funeral

BK0205134093 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1240 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will leave Dhaka for Colombo on Thursday morning to attend the funeral of Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa. She will be accompanied by Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman and Energy Minister Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain. The prime minister is expected to return to Dhaka the same day after attending the funeral.

The prime minister today signed the condolence book opened on the occasion of the death of Ranasinghe Premadasa at the residence of the Sri Lankan high commissioner in Dhaka. She was the first to sign the condolence book. Earlier, she held talks with the high

commissioner of Sri Lanka, Dr. A.N. Hanifa. Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman was also present during the talks.

1992 Export Earnings Rise by 25 Percent

BK3004125293 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Apr 93 p 7

[Text] Bangladesh earned about Taka 7590.86 crore from its exports last year which was more than 25 percent higher than the export earnings of the previous year, reports UNB [UNITED NEWS OF BANGLADESH].

The export earnings has been fixed to Taka 9750 crore for the current fiscal year which is 28 percent higher than last year's achievement.

This was disclosed at the 19th meeting of the Standing Committee on the Ministry of Commerce with Commerce Minister M.K. Anwar in the chair at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban [Parliament House] on Wednesday.

The meeting discussed in details the administrative structure, aims, objectives, and overall activities of Export Promotion Bureau, EPB, under the Ministry of Commerce.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad Ansar Ali Siddiky, MP [Member of Parliament] - BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party]; Ameer Khasru, MP - BNP; Advocate Abul Kalam, MP - BNP; Begum Farida Hasan, MP - BNP; Md. Khademul Islam, MP - AL [Awami League]; and Md. Anwar Hossain, MP - JP [Jatiya Party].

Commerce Secretary Najim Ahmed Chowdhury, Vice Chairman Export Promotion Bureau [EPB], and senior officials of the Ministry of Commerce and its subordinate departments were also present.

The meeting was informed that due to timely and necessary coordinated measures of the Export Promotion Bureau, export earnings has increased considerably and at the same time export items had been diversified.

In 1972, Bangladesh exported 70 items to only 35 countries whereas at present the country is exporting 115 items to 100 countries, the meeting was told.

The members of the Standing Committee stressed on providing more autonomy to EPB to make the organization more effective and dynamic.

India

Manipur Death Toll Reaches 50; 4 More Areas Under Curfew

BK0405090893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] In Manipur, four more small town areas in Imphal district have been put under curfew following clashes between two communities. The curfew period in Greater Imphal, Lilong, and Thoubal areas has been extended till 1800. The state chief secretary, Mr. S.B. Goswami, told our Imphal correspondent that police and paramilitary forces have been deployed in all sensitive areas in Imphal and Thoubal districts. Meanwhile, the death toll in the clashes has gone up to 50. The chief minister, Mr. R.K. Dorendra Singh, today visited the hospital where the injured have been admitted. In the Rajya Sabha today, several members expressed their concern and shock at the clashes in Manipur.

Bomb Blasts in Kashmir Kill 1, Injure 40

BK0304162693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1136 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Jammu, India, May 3 (AFP)—At least one person was killed and 40 injured here Monday when a [bomb] exploded inside a cinema and another on a bus carrying devotees from a Hindu shrine, police and witnesses said.

Police said the two blasts which rocked the city, winter capital of the strife-torn north Indian state of Kashmir, occurred almost simultaneously.

Twenty-four people were injured in the blast which ripped through the upper galleries of a cinema, police and witnesses said, adding six of the victims were hospitalised in critical condition.

Another bomb exploded on a bus carrying devotees from the holy Hindu pilgrim station of Vaishno Devi, injuring 16 pilgrims from the desert state of Rajasthan.

It was not immediately clear which bomb had caused the death.

Police blamed Moslem militants, battling for Kashmir's secession, for the explosions. No group had yet claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Police sounded a red alert and launched a hunt for the attackers who planted the powerful explosives, officials said.

The twin blasts occured as hundreds of Moslem inmates of a federal penitentiary here went on a hunger strike Monday to protest alleged atrocities by Indian troops in Kashmir, police said.

They were also demanding the arrest of guards who shot dead four prisoners on April 27 during rioting inside the facility, police added.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Said Threatened by LTTE

BK0305163493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] The Tamil Nadu Government has sought central assistance for providing aerial security to the chief minister, Ms. Jayalalitha, following the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] threat. An official statement

in Madras today says a glider-type aircraft was found making sorties over her residence early this morning. The state police has received information that the LTTE may attempt to attack her residence by micro-light aircraft.

Chavan on Pakistan Involvement in Bombay Blasts

BK0405033693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has reiterated that Pakistan's involvement in the Bombay blasts has been very clear and irrefutable. An official release issued in New Delhi says the home minister clarifies that he stands by the statement in the Lok sabha on the 21st of last month. The clarification has been issued in the wake of certain reports in a section of newspapers.

More Smuggled Weaponry From Pakistan Expected

BK3004121593 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 19 Apr 93 p 10

[Text] New Delhi—Another consignment of weaponry is likely to be smuggled into India from Pakistan. Sources from amongst the groups involved in Indo-Pak border smuggling in Rajasthan have hinted that a cache of arms and explosives may be brought into the country. This has also been confirmed by enforcement officials posted along the Rajasthan-Pakistan border.

Verifying the unofficial report, the enforcement personnel claim that the consignment has already arrived at Rahimyar Khan, in the Punjab province of Pakistan. Straddling Jaisalmer district Rahimyar Khan is considered a vital staging point for caches of arms that have previously arrived through this area of the border.

Under the charge of an officer of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), the consignment is to be handed over to couriers at a Pakistan Rangers post. The likely points of exit are either Bijnot Islamgarh or Salansar on the Pakistan side of the border. It is slated to enter India in the Nachna-Mohangarh-Ramgarh sector of Jaisalmer district. With winds rising in intensity and the imminent onset of the annual period for sandstorms, the opportune time to push the consignment into India falls during the remaining part of April and most of May.

Concerned central and state agencies are tracking the consignment. The belief is, like the earlier caches that entered this sector the latest consignment, will come as part of a cargo of narcotics. "The price they (Pakistani agencies) extract for allowing the safe passage of narcotics, is that the couriers carry a couple of camels laden with weapons every once in a while", a senior official monitoring activities on the border said.

The composition of the cache is likely to be a mixed bag, similar to the one impounded in Ahmedabad and another, near Rajpipla last year, both entered India from the Rajasthan-Pakistan border. Assault rifles, ammunition, explosives and detonators are slated to be part of this consignment.

The couriers will reportedly bring, the consignment to some pre- determined point in this sector, and bury it in the sands. From there the actual users, or their representatives, will collect the cache and ensure safe distribution, thus completing the third stage of the ISI's operation.

Comment on Dismissal of Sharif Government

BK3004113193 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 20 Apr 93 p 8

[Editorial: "The Pattern in Pakistan"]

[Text] Pakistani soil continues to be as inhospitable to democracy as ever. This explains the relative ease with which President Ishaq Khan has been able to dismiss Mr. Nawaz Sharif's government and to dissolve the National Assembly. The last time he took similar action to oust Ms Benazir Bhutto in 1990, it was widely condemned at home as a constitutional coup very much like the one staged in 1988 by the army dictator, Gen. Zia-ul-Haq, to sack the then Prime Minister, Mr. Mohammad Khan Junejo. There were also protest demonstrations in the streets. Such a backlash seems to have been forestalled in the present case. Only muted criticism has been voiced in a small section of the intelligentsia.

Mr. Khan has out-manoeuvred Mr. Sharif ever since the two started drifting apart following the former's decision to seek re-election at the end of the year and began manipulating the Pakistan Muslim League, the main constituent of the ruling IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad]. Mr. Sharif was perturbed obviously because he dreaded the prospect either of being removed by Mr. Khan after taking over as the President for another term or of having to continue in office with the Eighth Amendment threateningly hanging over his head for five more years. A significant tactic employed by Mr. Khan was the way in which he got Ms Bhutto tacitly to acquiesce in Mr. Sharif's dismissal. Such perversion of the democratic process has left the sapling of democracy stunted. If there is a spark of life in it, it is due to occasional doses of nutrients like elections and a measure of press freedom. The truth is that Pakistan's politics is still governed more by cut-throat rivalries and intrigues between ambitious autocrats including those in the military establishment rather than by a genuine competition between normal parties divided by conflicting programmes and policies. From Ms Bhutto's point of view, the most important thing that has now happened is that Mr. Khan has committed himself to holding elections in three months.

President Ishaq Khan has for long been the lynchpin of the dangerous nexus between self-serving military and civilian bureaucrats, political ringleaders and the more assertive politicised officers in uniform. His skill in keeping the last privileged group in good humour has now been evident, as always in the past. Most notably, the Presidential charge-sheet against Mr. Sharif includes

the allegation of poisoning the late Army Chief, Gen. Asif Nawaz, made by his widow. This, says Mr. Ishaq Khan, indicates the Sharif government's hand "in subverting the authority of the armed forces." The other part of his political strategy has been to keep a firm grip on the PML [Pakistan Muslim League] especially in Punjab, Mr. Sharif's home province. The meaning of the choice of Mr. Balkh Sher Mazari, hailing from the province, as the care-taker Prime Minister is obvious. It is clear Mr. Khan also hopes that the military establishment dominated by Punjabis—though Gen. Abdul Waheed, his own recent appointee as the Army Chief, is a Pathan—will not be amenable to possible overtures from Mr. Sharif.

U.S. Criticized Over Threat of Sanctions

BK3004124193 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 3 Apr 93 p 8

[Editorial: " US Crowbar Again"]

[Text] It is unfortunate that the Clinton administration has decided to wield the crowbar of special and super 301 against 44 nations including India. It ought to have reviewed the havoc this inheritance from the gung-ho Bush administration has wreaked on US trade policy. In the name of promoting free trade, the US has put (according to Mr. Paul Volcker, the former chairman of the Federal Reserve) an estimated "30 percent of our imports under some kind f quantitative restriction". Mr. Mickey Kantor, who has with alacrity donned the mantle of the super bully handed down by Ms Carla Hills, should get his facts right before accusing this country of discriminating against the US, which is ostensibly the raison d'etre for the threatened sanctions. India does have some sort of a ban on the import of consumer goods from all countries (not just the US). The restriction, which, however, does not apply to finished goods, is in consonance with the World Bank's trade strategy which criticises India for boosting consumption with imports. The quantitative restrictions under the negative import list apply largely to crude and petroleum products, mainly from West Asia. The charge that government procurement policies discriminate against foreign suppliers is baseless. Procurement is made under tied foreign aid (the flow of which from the US is a mere trickle).

Tariffs *used* to be high on imports from all sources, but these are no longer so and are slated to decline. American unwillingness to understand the turnround brought about by external liberalisation, the success of which hinges critically on export growth, is particularly galling. US pressures expose the Indian policy-maker to the charge of acting in the American interest. Besides, Mr. Kantor's allegations do not relate to Indian trade practices, which are in total conformity with GATT rules. Had this not been so, the US would have complained to the GATT authorities. He, like Ms Hills, is acting outside the framework of GATT, to unilaterally enforce US trading rights in India. The retaliatory strategy, based on so-called findings of what the US considers to be unfair trading practices, is meant to pressure India to pander to American chauvinism.

More importantly, the super crowbar threat is intended to cower this country into accepting the intellectual property rights as defined by the US. International trade is no longer about exploiting natural advantages, but about created ones as seen in semi- conductors, supercomputers, biotech or even in products of conventional chemistry and metallurgy. These are products of cumulative knowledge, scale of production and experience, which the US (and other developed countries) wants to preempt India (and developing nations) from nurturing. The designs to impose a self- denying patent regime on this country must be resisted at any cost.

U.S. Cited as Biggest Foreign Investor

BK0305131493 Delhi PATRIOT in English 25 Apr 93 p 5

[Text] The United States has emerged as the biggest foreign investor in India, according to the Indian Investment Centre (IIC), reports UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA].

The IIC, a Government institution for promotion of foreign investment, said there had been a "remarkable spurt" in investment during the first two months of tbe current year.

The total investment committed by all the countries amount to Rs. [rupees] 2,498 crore out of which the U.S. firms account for Rs. 1,477 crore, nearly 60 percent of the total approved figure.

An analysis of foreign collaboration reveals that between August 1991 and February 1993, the Indian Government including the RBI [Reserve Bank of India] granted approvals to as many as 2,358 foreign collaboration proposals envisaging foreign investment of Rs. 6,790 crore. During this period, 486 proposals from U.S. companies were given approvals.

The IIC said there were 210 U.S. proposals which had committed an equity of Rs. 2,783 crore in Indian joint ventures. The other countries which have committed substantial investment include Switzerland (Rs. 960 crore), Japan (Rs. 650 crore), Thailand (Rs. 368 crore), U.K. (Rs. 193 crore) and Germany (Rs. 179 crore).

According to the Indian Investment Centre, the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), up to February, 1993, has given approvals to about 250 foreign investment proposals and out of this, 47 belonged to the U.S. corporations.

The largest investment proposal that has been approved by FIPB has come from Enron Power Development Corporation, committing an equity of Rs. 146.40 crore in natural gas power station project.

Other large proposals from the U.S. corporations, which have been given the go-ahead signals are Guardian Industries Corporation for fibre glass project with equity

participation of Rs. 53.4 crore, Cargill Inc. Proposals for manufacturing citric acid with foreign equity of Rs. 259 million.

The Centre said it has been observed that the U.S. investors have preferred the non-automatic approval channel for getting the proposals approved.

France Offers Cooperation in Aerospace Projects

BK0305062193 Hong Kong AFP in English 0537 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] BANGALORE, India, May 3 (AFP)—France has offered advanced equipment and sub-systems for a fighter jet and light helicopter being developed by India's aerospace industry, an aerospace industry spokesman said Monday.

The offer came during a visit to this southern Indian city last week by a delegation of the Organisation of the French Aeronautics and Space Industry (GIFAS) made the offer last week during a visit to this southern Indian city which is the hub of India's aerospace industry, the spokesman said.

Delegates also offered to co-produce aerospace gadgets, and help upgrade capabilities of India's Air Force's MiG-21 fighter planes and Jaguars.

GIFAS's visit to Bangalore was designed to demonstrate French expertise in developing avionics, radar and other communications, computer software, and mechanical and electrical systems.

The team met experts at the Society of Indian Aerospace Technologies and Industries (SIATI), Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. and Aeronautical Development Agency, and held an exhibition of French aerospace technologies.

Delegation leader Bernard Dubois said Indian experts had shown "strong interest" in the French offer of cooperation in the light combat aircraft (LCA) and the advanced light helicopter (ALH) projects.

"We are (also) ready for joint ventures, for licenced production or co-production (of equipment) in India because India has trained manpower and expertise in (computer) software," he said.

"We want to strengthen the traditional cooperation between India and France," he said. "We have offered to modify and update the Jaguars and the MiG-21 with advanced navigation and weapon delivery systems ..."

The delegation's meetings with Indian officials "confirms that there is a lot of interest" in the French offers, he said.

Representatives of such companies as Aerospatiale, Auxilec, Blanc Aero, Dassault Electronique, Fortech, Sagem, Saft, Sofrance and SNR Roulements were among delegates.

C.G. Krishnadas Nair, president of SIATI, said it was up to individual companies from the two countries to forge collaborations following preliminary meetings here.

"We have told them (the French) that the days of selling directly to the Indian Air Force and licence production are over," he said. "We want co-production because that will create more jobs and we can share the earnings too."

"We will choose the partners because the British aersoapce industry too has shown similar interest in the joint ventures," Nair added.

Franco-Indian aerospace cooperation dates back to 1953 when the Indian Air Force, which has recent Mirage fighters models, acquired the Ouragon jet fighter. In 1961, the Indian Navy acquired the anti- submarine reconnaissance plane Alize.

In civil aviation, Indian Airlines was the first Asian airliner to acquire the Airbus A-300 and the Airbus A-320 planes.

Economic Cooperation Pact Signed With Yemen

BK0305163293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] India and Yemen have signed an agreement to set up a joint committee for economic and technical cooperation. It was signed by the secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr. K. Srinivasan, for India and the visiting permanent undersecretary in the Foreign Ministry of Yemen, Mr. (Ahmad 'Ubaydallah al-Azaik), in New Delhi today. The committee is expected to meet later this year. They also had detailed discussions on bilateral relations, the situation in the Gulf, and the recent meeting of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers in Karachi. The Yemeni leader also called on the petroleum minister, Captain Satish Sharma; the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia; and the foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit.

Delhi, Dhaka Agree To Expand Bilateral Trade

BK0305163693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] India and Bangladesh are to expand bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The two countries have also agreed to make special efforts for tapping the potential for joint ventures, particularly for export purposes. This was stated in New Delhi today after talks between the commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, and the visiting Bangladesh minister for communications, Mr. Oli Ahmed.

Mr. Mukherjee suggested closer interaction between the business communities of the two countries and also transit route facilities for improving trade. The Bangladesh minister underlined the need for promoting exports from his country to India.

Foreign Exchange Reserves, Requirements Viewed

BK0305034793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 3 May 93

[Commentary by journalist Tapan Dasgupta]

[Text] Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's observation at the interim committee meeting of the International Monetary Fund that the foreign exchange crisis is over should give no ground for complacency. No doubt, with reserves close to $7 billion, there is a sea change in the situation compared to what was in June 1991 when the reserves had dropped to just $1 billion. But, from the medium- term perspective, India is not out of the woods for exports are not rising adequately. It should be noted that reserves have risen to this comfortable level despite very modest and insufficient export growth. Two factors mainly have contributed to the rising foreign exchange reserves. Remittances are high because more money is being sent back home by workers through the official channel following the sharp drop in the havala or the unofficial exchange rate; and second, since industries are still to come out of the sectoral recession, there is no surge in import demand. But even if the import demand picks up during the later months of the current year, any balance of payment problem is unlikely as the reserves are considered to be adequate to meet the requirements during the current fiscal year.

Fortunately, India's need for exceptional financing to meet its current account deficit is modest by international standards—no more than 1 percent of India's GDP or about $2.5 billion annually. This can be met easily by the multilateral financing agencies during the next two to three years. A long-term solution to the balance of payment problem can only be found through adequate export growth. The eighth plan has estimated that India would need an export growth of at least 15 percent in dollar terms annually to achieve an annual GDP growth rate of over 5 percent till 1995-96. But so far, although exports are said to be picking up, there is no sign of achieving such a high export growth rate. Since the process of economic reforms has a long way to go, as Dr. Singh himself has said, India would continue to require international support, for an important component of the reforms is opening up of the economy to imports. In the absence adequate export growth, there must be a provision for financing such imports in years of crisis caused by drought or oil shocks. That is why Dr. Singh is keen on entering into an arrangement with the IMF for a medium-term loan. The loan money is to be parked outside to be used only in contingencies.

Government Said 'Rushing Into Bankruptcy'

BK3004122993 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 22 Apr 93 p 8

[By K. P. Joseph: "Unchecked Govt Spending"]

[Text] Many major and unhealthy changes have occurred in recent years in the way Government spends public money. This year a colossal amount of Rs [rupees] 38,000 crore will be spent as interest on public debt. This is more than the entire Central budget 10 years back. The interest bill has nearly doubled during the tenure of the present Finance Minister and is 10 times what it was about a decade ago. Each of us will be paying Rs 450 as our share of the interest this year. It is about 10 percent of per capita income. Under the Constitution, Parliament has no authority to reduce the interest payments by even a rupee.

While constantly talking about all the good things about to happen to the economy, the Government seems to be rushing headlong into bankruptcy. India has recently joined the exclusive club of nations that spend more money on interest on debt than on defence, though India has one of the largest defence forces in the world. Only two years back, India spent Rs 1,000 crore less on interest than on defence; this year we will be spending nearly Rs 20,000 crore more on interest than on the whole of the armed forces Army, Navy and Air Force! Interest is now almost double of the defence budget. One out of every four rupees spent by the Central Government is to pay interest.

There is only one short paragraph of 87 words in the Finance Minister's long budget speech about what he calls "the tremendous burden of interest payments", which he says, reflects "the large fiscal deficit incurred year after year". This is certainly not the whole truth.

The outstanding public debt is estimated at Rs 4,36,160 crore at the end of the year. It is to be doubted if the Government is taking the public into full confidence about the debt problem. This is confirmed by the recommendations of the Task Force and Policy Group on External Debt Statistics about the existing policies regarding the confidentiality of defence debt and the absence of regular reports on the external debt position. The public has a right to be told by how much the rupee equivalent of the foreign debt and the interest payments has increased due to devaluation and the recent changes in the exchange rate. Tucked away in remote corners of the budget documents can be found information about the increase of Rs 500 crore in interest payments last year as being due to "higher cost of servicing external debt on account of exchange adjustment" etc.

This year's budget has another surprise for the taxpayer; for the first time ever, the total allowances paid to the government employees will exceed the total of their pay. The allowances have jumped from being less than half of salaries in 1989-90 to much more than the salaries this year. Annexure 7 in volume I of the Expenditure Budget gives the details. In Telecommunications salary is Rs 526 crore, allowances Rs 772 crore. Even the Department of Economic Affairs will pay double of the salary as allowances.

Spending has become reckless in some government departments, which should be models of prudent spending. The tour expenses of Ministers have shot up from Rs 5.5 crore in the 1992-93 budget to Rs 35 crore in

the revised budget. Undisclosed amounts on VIP chartered flights and other luxuries will bloat the total bill which will never be known. In 1989-90 the Lok Sabha budget was Rs 17 crore; this year it is double the amount. Besides this the Lok Sabha will be spending another Rs 13 crore on buildings.

No one has cared to determine and compare the cost of collection in the major revenue departments. The Audit Department which claims to be the watchdog of the public purse has liberally helped itself to the contents of the purse by increasing its budget from Rs 212 crore in 1989-90 to Rs 325 crore this year. It employs about 6,000 persons alone, which is more than the total strength of the American General Accounting Office, which audits expenditure of $ 1,500 billion.

It should be clear from these examples that there is no control on spending by the Finance Ministry. The deficit reduction is made largely by arbitrary cuts in subsidies at the expense of the helpless common man. From Rs 12,300 crore in the 1991-92 budget, it has come down to Rs 8,400 crore this year with fertilisers taking the biggest shock. What we have to remember is that the total of all subsidies at their peak was much less than the increase alone in the interest on debt after the present Government came to power.

The provisions in the Constitution about legislative control over public spending are breaking down all around us. The public does not get even half the value for its tax money. The Central and State Governments together should be losing much bigger amounts year after year through fraud, waste and sheer financial mismanagement than the amounts involved in the bank and shares scam. As the Government tries to march into the brave new world of its economic policies, an unseen army of government spendthrifts and fiddlers is destroying it from the rear.

Iran

Reportage on Delegation to IMF, World Bank Meeting

Nurbakhsh Comments on Talks

LD0105101293 Tehran IRNA in English 0916 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA—Minister of Economy and Finance Mohsen Nurbakhsh discussed mutual cooperation between the World Bank [WB] and Iran with WB's President Lewis Preston in Washington Friday.

In a separate meeting also in Washington Friday, Nurbakhsh reviewed Tehran-Paris bilateral economic cooperation with the visiting French Minister of Economy and Finance Edmond Alphandery.

Nurbakhsh, heading a high-ranking economic delegation, arrived in Washington Tuesday night to attend the joint spring session of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Meanwhile, Governor of Bank Markazi (the Central Bank) Hoseyn 'Adeli and Iran's Permanent Representative to the U.N. Kamal Kharrazi arrived in Washington Thursday evening to join the Iranian delegation and attend the WB-IMF joint meeting.

Delegate Denied Entry to U.S.

LD0305152793 Tehran IRNA in English 1422 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 3, IRNA—Iran's economic delegation to the spring meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank in Washington has categorically protested to the U.S. attitude towards one of the Iranian delegates.

American emigration officials and police without any justification barred head of the Majles Finance and Economic Committee Hojjat ol-Eslam Shahrudi from entering the U.S. although he was holding a valid visa and was a member of the Iranian delegation.

The Iranian delegation in a letter to the IMF and World Bank authorities called on them to officially protest this U.S. act, and demand an explanation from the Americans for their unjustifiable behaviour.

Shahrudi on 'Ordeal'

LD0405091293 Tehran IRNA in English 0833 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA—A prominent clerical member of the Iranian delegation to the joint session of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) says the behavior of the U.S. immigration officers with him during his 12-hour stay in Washington had initiated him into "the U.S. brand of the human rights in action."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyn Shahrudi, chairman of the economy and finance committee of the Majles, arrived in Washington with a valid U.S. visa on Monday April 26 but was interrogated by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) officers and soon led to a state prison where he was kept until next day and later transferred to an INS prison. He said on April 26 he was escorted to a parked Lufthansa plane at Washington airport which was to fly to Bonn from where he boarded another plane to Tehran.

The official noted that his overnight ordeal in Washington was marked by intermittent harassments, humiliation and psychologically ruinous behavior by the Immigration and Naturalization officers.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Shahrudi astounded his interrogators as he decided to say his daily prayers irrespective of the psychological pressures on him at an INS office in Washington. "I used a small compass which I used to

carry with myself to find the direction of 'qibla' and said my prayers while circled by bewildered INS officers," he added.

The state prison in Washington, he said, was the worst of its kind because of the stinking smell of urine permeated throughout the cell that he also shared with another two, a white and a black.

The Iranian delegate said he had been issued a valid U.S. visa by the American Consulate in Paris, but added that without any reason whatsoever, the Americans had decided to invalidate his visa after it had been issued. He also noted that on April 26 INS officers demanded his signature at the foot of a printed English document which he declined to give because, he said, he could not be forced into signing a document in a language that he did not know.

One hour after the Lufthansa plane took off from the Washington airport, the official added, a steward came forward and handed him a sealed envolope in which he found his confiscated passport.

In a certain way, the deported Iranian official said, as a representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran he was even proud of being subject to the rough behavior of the INS officials.

He commented that both he and the rest of the Iranian delegation were guests of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Washington and that their visit to Washington did not have to do with the U.S. Administration. The Islamic Republic is a member of the IMF, and according to the IMF articles is entitled to determine the composition of its delegations to the IMF sessions in Washington.

Iranian Diplomat: No Ties With Israel

TA0205085393 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 May 93 p 1

[Report by Dan Avidan in Washington]

[Text] Dr. Kamal Kharrazi, Iran's representative in the United Nations, told DAVAR Friday that the Iranian Government is not planning any ties whatsoever with Israel, even if a solution is found to the Palestinian problem.

In a meeting with a small number of journalists, Kharrazi said in reply to a question by DAVAR, that he rejected the State of Israel's existence because it was set up on Palestinian lands. He said that Iran would not have opposed the establishment of a Jewish state somewhere else, but not at the expense of the Palestinians or any other people.

When the DAVAR correspondent claimed that there are Israeli politicians who expect Iran to wise up and return to closer ties with Israel, as existed under the late shah, Kharrazi replied: "That is what you want, but we are not interested." He explained that Israel is "a conquering entity." Therefore Iran does not recognize it and there is no room to talk about setting up relations between the two countries.

When asked whether the Iranian Government has any information about where navigator Ron Arad is being held, Kharrazi said: "We have no information about his whereabouts."

Dr. Kharrazi made contradictory remarks about his country's plans to develop an atom bomb. On the one hand, he claimed that in view of the fact that Israel has atom bombs, there is no reason why the Muslims should not develop their own atom bomb, called the "Islamic bomb." Moreover, he said there is nothing to stop any Arab or Muslim country from developing nuclear arms if Israel is permitted to develop them. Conversely, Kharrazi claimed that his country is not developing nuclear weapons, and that already in the mid-1970's (during the shah's rule) Iran aspired to demilitarizing the Middle East of nonconventional arms.

Kharrazi confirmed that Iran is in the midst of rehabilitating its Army, which was destroyed in the 1980-88 war with Iraq. But, he claimed that rehabilitating the Army and procuring new arms—submarines from the former USSR—were for defensive and not aggressive purposes. He noted that the shah had ordered six submarines from Germany, but that these were not handed over to Iran following the Khomeyni revolution in 1979, the year they were completed.

Kharrazi claimed that Iran's geostrategic position is sensitive since it is surrounded by threats: from the south, by U.S. forces cruising in the Persian Gulf; from the west, by the Iraqis; Afghanistan's instability from the east; and the fluid situation of the (former Soviet) Muslim republics from the north. Iran is therefore arming itself and forming alliances with various states in order to defense itself.

The Iranian delegate denied that his country is involved in terrorism, but confirmed that Iran is aiding Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which he called the Palestinian's national liberation movement, supported by most of the Palestinian public. He especially attacked Israel and Egypt for increasing their criticism of Iran for dealing in terrorism. He claimed that Egypt and Israel are hoping to increase the aid they receive from the United States.

Kharrazi said that his country honors the wish of the Syrians to hold political negotiations with Israel, but Iran does not believe that anything will come of them. He called for lifting immediately the blockade on Bosnia and pointed out that if that is done his country will provide arms to the Serbian Muslim fighters in cooperation with the Security Council or without it.

Most of his remarks were devoted to lecturing on the wave of Islamic fundamentalism sweeping the Middle East. Within that framework he said that the Khomeyni revolution in Iran was the source of inspiration for

establishing fundamentalist movements in other Muslim and Arab countries. The Iranian revolution itself, however, was a continuation of a wave of Islamic activism begun by the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt in the 1920's. The Islamic fundamentalist movement is an authentic popular movement which does not require bureaucracies and hierarchies as does communism.

Kharrazi called on the West to recognize the movement and not to fight it because the West does not have a chance of beating Islamic fundamentalism as it defeated communism in the Cold War. Fundamentalism derives from frustration due to foreign occupation—as is the case with the Palestinians—or is the outcome of a repressive regime and harsh economic and social conditions. Each Islamic fundamentalist movement has its unique characteristics which are the outcome of conditions in the country in which it developed and is operating. Kharrazi forecast that the wave of fundamentalism will continue to grow in the future.

Kharrazi defended the fatwa (Islamic religious edict) issued by Khomeyni for the need to kill British-Muslim author Salman Rushdie for blaspheming Islam in his book "Satanic Verses". He rejected the claims that this fatwa is illegal even by Islamic religious standards. He said the very publication of the fatwa is an expression of the strengthening of Islam in the world and is aimed at demonstrating that the Muslims will no longer abide any offense to their honor.

Reportage on Visit of Vietnamese Foreign Minister

Minister Arrives 3 May

LD0305122693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] The foreign minister of the Republic of Vietnam, Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam, arrived in Tehran this morning for a three-day visit at the head of a delegation. He has come to Tehran at the official invitation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign minister, Mr. Velayati. Upon arrival in Tehran, in a conversation with reporters, Mr. Manh Cam expressed his country's interest in expanding and strengthening bilateral relations with Iran in economic, cultural, and technical fields.

Discusses Scope of Talks

LD0305153893 Tehran IRNA in English 1442 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 3, IRNA—Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam arrived here today on a three-day visit heading a high ranking delegation, and was welcomed by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati at the airport.

Interviewed by IRNA upon arrival, Nguyen said his country is keen on expansion of relations with Iran in the economic, cultural and technical fields.

He said Iran and Vietnam could exchange scientific, cultural and technical delegations.

On regional and international cooperation between the two countries, Nguyen said Tehran and Hanoi enjoy excellent ties which could provide favourable conditions for South-South cooperation.

He informed Velayati of likely visit to Tehran of another Vietnamese official to explore ways for upgrading of their relations.

Velayati noted in reply that Iran-Vietnam ties improved after the triumph of the Islamic Revolution in 1979 and that the Islamic Republic has a representative in Vietnam in ambassadorial level.

The two countries, said Velayati, enjoy good potentials for exchange of goods at present and that Iran was ready to import agricultural products from Vietnam and in return export commodities required by Vietnam.

This is the first official visit to Tehran by Nguyen.

Talks With Velayati on Ties

LD0305141793 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1315 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Vietnam's foreign minister, Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam, arrived in Tehran today on a three-day visit at the official invitation of Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati. Upon his arrival the Vietnamese foreign minister expressed his country's interest in promoting and strengthening of relations with Iran in various economic, technical and cultural fields.

In response, Mr, Velayati said Iran-Vietnam ties have expanded since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. This is the first visit by Vietnam's foreign minister to Iran since the unification of north and south Vietnams. The Vietnamese foreign minister is scheduled to meet senior Iranian officials during his stay in Tehran.

Meets President 4 May

LD0405101993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning received Mr Nguyen Manh Cam, the foreign minister of Vietnam. In the course of this meeting Vietnam's foreign minister termed the progress made by the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] as admirable and said: Grounds for the creation of understanding and friendship between the two nations of Iran and Vietnam is growing. Our people thank Iran for its deserved role in maintaining security of the region and the world.

While presenting a report on Vietnam's reconstruction activities since its victory in the long war against colonialists, Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam added: Vietnam is eager to expand relations and cooperation with the IRI and will pursue this matter seriously.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, referring to his useful talks with the president of Vietnam during the Non-aligned summit, said: The history of struggle of the people of Vietnam against the occupiers and aggressors and their victory is an appropriate example to the third world and developing countries. The president termed Vietnam's experience in reconstruction as valuable and said: The IRI has also begun the period of reconstruction after coming through the years of the holy defense, and in this field the two countries can better utilize each other's experience.

While welcoming the expansion of cooperation between Iran and Vietnam, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: By finding new ways for cooperation, the two countries can prepare the grounds for the growth of bilateral economic and technical work.

Reaction to Assassination of Sri Lankan President

Ministry Condemns Assassination

LD0205115893 Tehran IRNA in English 0934 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA—The Iranian Foreign Ministry Sunday condemned the assassination of the Sri Lankan president, Ranasinghe Premadasa, in a massive bomb blast in Colombo Saturday.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman, expressing deep sorrow over the incident and severely denouncing such a terrorist act, conveyed Iran's sympathy to the Sri Lankan Government and nation and to the late president's family.

Premadasa was assassinated while leading a ruling party May Day procession.

Elected as president in 1988, Premadasa, a brave political figure of the Third World, dared to cut off relations with the Zionist regime and close down the Israeli Embassy in Colombo.

Velayati Sends Condolences

LD0305144193 Tehran IRNA in English 1410 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 3, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today cabled a condolence to the Sri Lankan nation and government on the assassination of late President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

"The tragedy perpetrated by a terrorist, was undoubtedly a catasrophe for the government and people of Sri Lanka, and also for us and other friends in the region," said Velayati's message.

Lankan people would not forget the services and efforts of their late president towards the country's independence and progress, hoped Velayati and expressed sympathy and condolences on behalf of the Iranian people and government.

He also visited the Sri Lankan Embassy this morning to sign a memorial book opened in this regard.

Premadasa was assassinated in Colombo on May 1.

OPEC 'Differences' Serve West, Keep Prices Down

NC0305113193 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Apr 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Continuing Confusion in Oil Market"]

[Text] The recent meeting of oil ministers from OPEC countries and their counterparts from non-OPEC nations, which was held in Amman, ended without having reached any decision on unified action against the Western countries' policy of levying taxes on energy consumption. It did, however, set up a working committee to find ways of countering the Western countries' recent measures.

Lack of coordination among the participants, and the fact that some of them, perhaps inadvertently, acted in the direction of safeguarding the interests of the Western countries, were among the principal causes of the meeting's failure.

The most disconcerting thesis that was put forward in the meeting was the argument that the Western countries as well as the oil producers should have fair shares of any surplus revenue that is to be obtained from the sale of the crude.

Such an argument is specially surprising when it is put forward by the representatives of oil-producing countries who are supposed to be safeguarding the interests of their own nations against the Western countries. One should ask the proponents of such a view whether the Western countries bear any part of the production expenses of the oil which could entitle them to a share of its profits. Do the Western countries give to the consumers of their industrial products any share of the huge profits they derive from their exports?

Obviously the OPEC members will have to resolve their differences before they can form a unified front for the achievement of their aims. And that is exactly what the Western countries do not want to happen. For as long as there are differences among the OPEC members, the oil price can be kept down.

Obviously the OPEC members will have to resolve their differences before they can form a unified front for the achievement of their aims. And that is exactly what the Western countries do not want to happen. For as long as there are differences among the OPEC members, the oil price can be kept down.

OPEC members should realize that time is of crucial value and that any delay in bringing about concord among the members could lead to irreparable damages. And those members, who, knowingly or unknowingly, cause disruption in OPEC's decision-makings on the oil

price and production quota or on ways of meeting the Western countries' strategies, should be warned against sacrificing long- term interests for short-term gains.

OPEC can be a powerful organization and exercise effective control on the oil market, only when they can act harmoniously in making and executing decisions. OPEC without harmony among its members will lose its meaning, and will never be capable of achieving its ends.

Velayati Reports on ICO Karachi Conference

Sums Up Results

LD3004162193 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Friday said that support for Palestinian uprising (intifadah), call for arms delivery to Bosnian Muslims, and reaffirmation of the death verdict against apostate author Salman Rushdie were highlights of the decisions adopted by the 21st ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] Foreign Ministers Conference.

Speaking to reporters at Mehrabad Airport upon his arrival from the five-day Karachi ICO conference, Velayati said that ICO foreign ministers approved Iran's proposal for coordinating stands of Muslim countries towards human rights issue.

He said that with the approval of the proposal, attempts by Western countries to impose anti-Islamic views on Muslim states would face opposition of one third of the U.N. members.

Referring to the 32-point ICO resolution, Velayati said that the contact group of the conference in an extraordinary meeting underlined the need to declare a safe passage for the delivery of arms and ammunition to the defenceless Muslims in Bosnia.

Velayati said that the resolution was sent to the U.N. headquarters in New York on the threshold of the Security Council's deliberations on Bosnia.

He noted that the 21st ICO meeting reaffirmed the death verdict against the Indian-born British writer Salman Rushdie and regretted the stand adopted by some Western countries in supporting the apostate writer.

As for the formation of an Islamic organization for Muslim women, Velayati said that a meeting would be held in Tehran soon to study the issue.

The five-day ministerial meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference wound up in Karachi Thursday night.

On ICO Resolution on Bosnia

LD0305151593 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1315 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] [Announcer] Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati has taken part in an exclusive interview with the IRIB [Islamic Republic of Iran's Broadcasting] today.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Foreign Minister, what achievements did you accomplish in the Islamic Conference session in Pakistan.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. This is the first time that the regular meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs of the Muslim countries was held after the recent developments in Bosnia and also Palestine. Of course after the new development in former Yugoslavia, because of the disastrous situation which Muslims were facing in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we held two extraordinary ministerial meetings in Istanbul and Jeddah. During those two meetings, we had taken some decisive measures and the creation of the Contact Groups was one of the important results of those meetings.

In connection with the Bosnian question, we adopted a resolution in advance before the concluding session because we wanted to send a strong and good message to the Security Council on the threshold of its meeting in connection with the question of Bosnia. The Contact Group at the level of the ministers of foreign affairs, on the basis of the suggestion of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was being held there and the draft of the resolution which has 32 articles—was adopted in the meeting with the participation of the ministers of foreign affairs including Iran. I can tell you very sincerely that two extraordinary sessions for the question of Bosnia in the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] at the level of the ministers of foreign affairs and this recent regular meeting in Karachi have helped the Bosnian people a lot because now the Islamic Conference Organization is stronger than before. And they expressed their support unanimously toward the Bosnian people. Not with the adoption of resolutions but also the pledging of some aids and taking some practical steps.

I can tell you that without these meetings and these pledges and these very frank and practical help for the people of Bosnia, we could not have even these minimal achievements. Although it is true that there is a real massacre in Bosnia and many Muslims have been killed but, we believe that if we don't support the people—we as Muslims—if we don't support the people of Bosnia they would face worse situation. [end recording]

Azerbaijani Envoy on 'Karabakh Issue'

NC0305105593 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 20 Apr 93 pp 1, 15

[Report from the TEHRAN TIMES City Desk]

[Text] Tehran—The Azerbaijan Republic ambassador here blamed leader of the former Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev on what is going on between his country and the Armenian Republic on the 'Karabakh issue'.

"Despite the fact that I respect Mr. Gorbachev because of his belief in democracy, I'm sorry to say that he is responsible for the bloody conflict between the Armenian Republic and the Azerbaijan Republic," Azeri Ambassador to Iran Dr. Nasib Nasibzade said.

Talking to the TEHRAN TIMES he said, to play the political game between Azeris and Armenians on Karabakh was an inheritance by Gorbachev from his predecessors in the former Soviet Union who always followed the policy for the achievement of the goals of the Russian Empire.

"Gorbachev used perestroyka (restructuring) to his own personal benefit rather than to solve the ethnic problems in the former Soviet Republic," Nasibzade said.

He was the guest at a lunch hosted by the management of the TEHRAN TIMES yesterday. He was at the TEHRAN TIMES office along with Azerbaijan Republic Embassy's Second Secretary Samad Baramzade and the Embassy Advisor Gasan Ali Boglu. [names as published]

The current conflict accelerated when the Azerbaijan Republic ordered the Russian Army to go out from the republic, he said and pointed out that contrary to the fact that Armenia has Russian Army backing and weapons, the Azerbaijan Republic has not a single Russian soldier on its soil.

"In other words you can say that Russia has taken revenge from us through providing all-round assistance to the Armenian Republic against us," he said.

He admitted that Turkey provided assistance to the Armenian Republic and thought the Armenians would solve the dispute on the negotiating table.

"But," he said, "recently Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel admitted that they had made a mistake."

Nasibzade recalled that the presidents of the Armenian and Azerbaijan Republics signed an agreement last year in Tehran which could not be implemented 'because of certain interested powers in Russia, France, Lebanon and elsewhere who did not want the issue to be solved as they are for greater Armenistan."

The presidents of the two republics of the Caucasus region agreed to settle the dispute of Nagorno-Karabakh through mediation of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In this respect Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi played a vital role and organized shuttle diplomacy which took him to Baku and Yerevan several times and paved the way for the tripartite summit that was also attended by President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani.

Nasibzade said that the Karabakh issue is not as simple as is portrayed in the media.

"It's an Islamic issue and the Armenian Republic in this region is playing the same role for the Russians what Israel is playing for the United States.

"In answer to a question Nasibzade said, "Iran's role during the conflict was very good".

"I do not want that Iran should be involved in this conflict militarily, but in case Fizuli falls then Iran has no alternative but to act," Nasibzade said and pointed out that Fizuli is just 20 kilometers from the Iranian border.

Economic Ties Discussed With Japanese, Germans

LD0205113993 Tehran IRNA in English 1044 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA—The Iranian Minister of Economy and Finance, Mohsen Nurbakhsh, discussed bilateral economic ties with his Japanese counterpart Yoshiro Hayashi in Washington Saturday.

In a seperate meeting the same day, Nurbakhsh reviewed economic relations as well as other issues of mutual interest with German Minister of Development and Economic Cooperation Carl-Dieter Spranger.

Nurbakhsh is in Washington for the joint spring session of the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Rohani, Delegation Report on Meetings in Germany

Rohani Interviewed on Results

LD0105165193 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 1 May 93

[Interview by unidentified correspondent with Deputy Speaker of the Majlis Hasan Rohani before his departure from Germany "this morning"—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Dr. Rohani, would you please describe the results of your visit to Germany and your talks with high-ranking officials of that country for our viewers?

[Rohani] In this official visit, which took place at the invitation of the German parliament, we met with important parliamentary committees, with the Foreign [Policy] Committee in five rounds of talks: the Defense Committee, Human Rights Committee, Cultural Committee, and finally with the Economics Committee and German parliamentary officials and the Presidium, as well as the foreign minister, the adviser to the chancellor, and the official in charge of German national security. We also met with the chancellor. During those meetings

we offered proposals for the expansion of ties between the two countries and for eliminating charges which are levelled against the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Zionists and the West. We discussed our concern over the human rights issue in Europe and proposed a plan for its resolution by establishing permanent relations between the Islamic Consultative Assembly's Human Rights Committee and that of Germany.

We let them know of our concern with terrorism. We told them that we have suffered the most because of terrorism. It was agreed to have cooperation with Germany in the fight against terrorism.

We also expressed our concern towards the stockpile of weapons in the Persian Gulf and declared our desire for the Middle East region to be free from nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons; we agreed to cooperate in this field.

During these talks, we also raised the issue of all the unfinished economic projects. We made some practical proposals in this connection. They primarily agreed with these proposals. They said thanks for these proposals and that we can once again evaluate these projects positively to find a solution.

We held lengthy discussions on cultural issues, including the need for establishing dialogue between Islam and the West. We told them the West is not paying attention to Islamic principles, because many of these principles are incomprehensible to the West; and it is, therefore, necessary to hold some sort of dialogue between the two groups so that we can explain Islamic matters. The German side agreed with this, and it is going to begin at some stage. Iran will take part on Islam's behalf and Germany will participate on behalf of the West for the time being. We can expand this later and involve other Islamic and Western countries.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Plans for Cooperation

LD0105163893 Tehran IRNA in English 1602 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA—Multilateral cooperation would be established between Iran, Germany and six Persian Gulf Arab states, Majlis vicespeaker and head of the Foreign Relations Committee Hojjat-ol-Eslam Hasan Rohani announced here this morning on his return from Bonn.

He told IRNA at Mehrabad Airport that during his 5-day visit, he discussed bilateral, regional and international issues with senior German officials including Chancellor Helmut Kohl and heads of the German parliament's foreign, defence, economic, human rights and cultural committees.

Iran expressed concern over human rights in Germany and in prisons in Europe, and requested to meet inmates which was accepted by German officials, said Rohani.

He stressed that promotion of Tehran-Bonn relations was an issue agreed in his talks with Chancellor Kohl, the minister of national security and parliamentary officials.

Among other issues discussed by German parliamentarians was the situation of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and ways to end the crisis, he said.

The German officials, disclosed Rohani, favour lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia, and believe that if Bosnia is denied assistance, it would soon run out of its last remaining weapons resulting in a greater catastrophe.

On Tehran-Bonn trade relations, he said that according to talks held with the German minister of foreign trade, measures would be taken to eliminate the imbalance in bilateral trade.

Rohani who conveyed President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message Kohl said the German chancellor agreed with the outcome of his talks with German officials on human rights, the campaign against terrorism and projects shelved by Germany in Iran.

Rohani said it was difficult for the West to understand issues of the Islamic world, and to tackle this problem, Iran suggested a cultural dialogue between Western and Islamic countries, with Iran representing the Muslim world and Germany representing the Western countries. The suggestion was welcomed by the German side, he added.

SCNS Hears Rohani Report

NC0205055593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] The Supreme Council for National Security [SCNS] met yesterday afternoon with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the chair and with the participation of its members, political advisers, and high-ranking military commanders. During the meeting, Majles Deputy Speaker Hasan Rohani, who is also the SCNS secretary, briefed the participants on his visit to Germany and on the outcome of his talks with high-ranking German officials.

Foreign Minister Velayati also briefed the SCNS members on the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers' session in Karachi.

'Official Visit' Questioned

NC0305092293 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Station commentary: "What Is the Clerical Regime After?"]

[Text] Esteemed listeners. Reports in news agencies say that two days ago, a three-member delegation from the so-called Islamic Majles, led by Deputy Speaker Hasan Rohani and a close associate of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, went to Germany for talks with officials.

The Islamic Republic said the objective of this trip was to discuss political and economic issues, but the news agencies and other sources said the aim was to discuss a deal regarding a German citizen arrested in Iran. Last week, Judiciary head Yazdi announced a number of foreign citizens in Iranian prisons will soon be tried. They include Helmut Szimkus, a German citizen. The regime announced he has been sentenced to execution.

Following the announcement, the hypocritical and fraudulent Iranian officials said that while Szimkus has been sentenced to execution, his family can ask Khamene'i to grant him amnesty. Apparently, this has been transformed into a pretext for the Islamic Republic and the German Government to collude and enter into a deal.

The shameless clerical regime needs a lot of this kind of manipulation for obvious reasons. First, last summer, the German police arrested and imprisoned Islamic Republic terrorists suspected of assassinating Democratic Party of Kordestan [DPK] leader Dr. Sadeq Sharafkandi and other comrades. Since then, the regime tried hard to have the individuals released from prison, but has not succeeded.

Second, the German Government and its higher echelons have officially hosted Salman Rushdie several times, which displeased regime officials.

Third, some time ago, Germany announced that Iran was not prepared to pay its short-term debts, therefore it would withhold all financial credit to Iran. This decision will hurt Iran, especially as other governments have adopted similar stances. But Germany, Iran's biggest trading partner in Europe, has inflicted a major blow on the Islamic Republic of Iran by making such a decision.

The fourth factor forcing the Islamic Republic to resort to such charades is its humiliation stemming from an attack on Iraqi Kurdistan and the DPK base of Iranian Kordestan. Recently, the DPK revealed this antihuman plot by the regime. The news spread internationally and regionally and the Islamic Republic's act was wholeheartedly condemned.

Remembering these realities and in light of the Islamic Republic's previous record in arcane transactions and collusion with European countries and remembering that the German Government may grant some privileges to Iran for the release of its citizen from an Iranian prison, we conclude that the aims behind the Iranian delegation's visit are:

1. To ask the German Government to release the terrorists and hand them over to Iran or at least to postpone their trial and not mention the issues pertaining to this affair.

We think this would be very important for the clerical regime.

2. To have Germany stop supporting Salman Rushdie.

3. As in the past, to see Germany assist Iran economically so that the regime can extricate itself from the current economic crisis.

4. To have Germany not condemn the regime's terrorist actions and agitation officially and not participate in the general rallying of international public opinion against the regime and its policies.

The Iranian regime fears the possibility of the allied Western countries and the Security Council making a decision against it to prevent the regime's aggression against Iraqi territory.

For the above, the Islamic Republic of Iran is willing to give numerous privileges to Germany, the first of which would be to abandon its decision to execute Helmut Szimkus and to release him. Regime newspapers mentioned this issue immediately after the Iranian delegation left for Germany, adding that Szimkus' sentence is not absolute and the review of his dossier is incomplete.

The regime will then be willing to collaborate with German companies in its economic and industrial projects, so that massive benefits will then accrue to that country. It will also increase its imports from Germany. So, when public opinion and governments observe the clerical regime's inappropriate conduct and the regime wallows in severe isolation, it would appear that the German Government will help to mitigate the loss of prestige for the clerical regime by making some sort of deal.

It is everyone's obligation to expose this deal and pressure the German Government not to become an accomplice in crime with the Islamic Republic. The German Government should know that the Islamic Republic's regime is in no position to ensure Germany's strategic interests. If it enters into a short-term deal with Iran, it should not turn a blind eye to this regime's unprincipled actions, especially as we, all freedomseeking individuals, and the public expect the German Government to betray no weakness before the terrorists of the clerical regime, to impeach for their crimes, and to sentence accordingly. If not, the German Government will be considered an accomplice in the crimes of the Islamic Republic, just like the Austrian Government, and freedomseeking humanity will not forgive.

'Spy' Case Against German in 'Final Stage'

LD2504124193 Tehran IRNA in English 1208 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 25, IRNA—An official at the Iranian judiciary here Sunday said that the case of Helmut Szimkus, a German national charged with espionage activities against Iran, is in its final stage.

Szimkus, a German engineer working for a machine tool factory in Iran, was arrested in 1983 on charges of spying for the Iraqi regime as 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war was going on.

According to judicial sources Szimkus had earlier confessed that he had spied for the Iraqi regime and thus was sentenced to death. However, after an appeal by his lawyer, the case was sent to the Supreme Court for the final decision.

The source refuted unconfirmed comments over the case and reiterated that it was in its final stages and a verdict was yet to be issued.

Obviously, he added, any decision to be made by the courts of the Islamic Republic of Iran would be based on the Islamic penal laws.

Nateq-Nuri on Rights Violations, Nuclear Arms

LD3004171093 Tehran IRNA in English 1533 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., April 30, (IRNA)—Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri here Thursday said that unfounded fabrications against Iran such as violation of human rights and involvement in nuclear arms, were plots hatched by global arrogance to isolate Iran in the world.

Addressing a gathering of medical univesity students and professors, Nateq-Nuri said that the United States was convinced that by exerting more pressures on Iran the Islamic revolution would collapse.

But, he stressed, despite the large-scale propaganda campaign the U.S. launched against Iran, it was witnessing the country's stability.

"We would never undergo the humilitation of compromising with the United States...if we preserve values of our Islamic revolution and do not fear plots of the enemies, the West would inevitably kneel down before the Islamic Republic one day," Nateq-Nuri said.

He stressed that under no circumstances Iran would give up its support for the Palestinian people and Muslims in Bosnia- Herzegovina."

Today, the speaker added, officials of the Islamic Republic could proudly say "Iran is the most stable country in the region and despite the atrocities of its enemies, it is becoming ever stronger at international arena."

Addressing another gathering at Jame' mosque of Sunni Muslims here the same day, Nateq-Nuri underlined the need for unity among Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims and added that the old colonialistic plot for sowing discord between the two Muslim sects did not work any more.

Afghan Refugees Return Home

LD0105122293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Since the victory of the jihadi revolution of Afghanistan, more than 44,000 Afghan immigrants living in Sistan va Baluchestan Province have returned home through the Doqarun border post in Khorasan Province.

The head of the Foreign Nationals Department in Sistan va Baluchestan, announcing this yesterday, said: After the establishment of a UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] office in the Doqarun area this year [commencing 21 March 1993], several convoys of these immigrants in the province have returned home from this point.

He added: With the deployment of UNHCR representatives in Mirjaveh and Milak border points in the Zabol area the repatriation of Afghan immigrants in Sistan va Baluchestan is to start through those border points as well. He pointed out: Taking into consideration that the Afghan immigrants, during many years of living in Iran, have acquired good technical and specialized skills in all fields, their return home will be most effective in the reconstruction and stabilization of the internal situation of their country.

'Grave Doubts' About Bosnia Peace Plan Aired

LD0305171193 Tehran IRNA in English 1637 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Athens, May 3, IRNA—After the signing of an international peace plan on Bosnia-Herzegovina [B-H] by all sides in Athens yesterday, the world's attention is now focused on the self-styled 'parliament' of the Bosnian Serbs.

Their leader Radovan Karadzic who grudgingly signed the four-part plan drawn up by international mediators Cyrus Vance and David Owen said it must be accepted by his self-styled 'parliament' which is to meet on Wednesday.

Last week Bosnian Serbs had rejected the peace plan and several members have again openly expressed the opposition to it.

But Balkan observers say Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic, condemned by the West as the "Butcher of Belgrade," would pressure the Bosnian Serbs to approve the peace-plan.

Milosevic himself is under extreme pressure following the tightening of U.N. sanctions and calls for air strikes against Serbian targets.

Despite the signing at Athens, some fighting was reported on the ground in B-H Monday.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic said he hoped that "ethnic cleansing" by the Serbs will now stop and that the ceasefire would be a test of the agreement's signing.

Izetbegovic had agreed to the peace-plan in March on condition that "if the aggression continues" his signature on the document would become invalid.

However, nobody is predicting if the Vance-Owen peace plan which partitions the republic into 10 autonomous provinces would be implemented.

After one year of brutal Serbian massacres, pillage and rape, can the peace plan guarantee in practical terms the safety of Europe's native Muslims, many of whom have fled their homeland?

"The peacekeeping operation will be one of the most complex and will require a large peacekeeping force," sources acknowledged.

The peace plan, that contains the nine principles, the military agreement, the provisional maps of the provinces and the interim period, is itself so complicated that Balkan experts have grave doubts over its implementation.

If the peace agreement holds, the drafting of the new constitution for the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina is expected to take months, and the return of the millions of refugees and displaced persons could take over a year.

In the meantime a 9-member interim presidency and an interim government are expected to look after the affairs of the war- shattered republic.

In the rotating presidency each of the constituent peoples Muslims, Croats and Serbs will hold the interim presidency for six months.

Observers are quick to point that in Cyprus the constitution under which the president had to be a Greek-Cypriot and the vice- president a Turkish-Cypriot failed to function.

Actually the Vance-Owen plan was accepted by the Muslims with reluctance after they realised their desperate situation and that their existence was in danger.

Izetbegovic called on the international community to "implement this plan and follow it up without delay."

But will the deaf international community pay heed?

Dismissal of Pakistani National Assembly Viewed

NC0305113293 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL Weekly Edition in English 22 Apr 93 p 2

[Editorial: "For a Stable Pakistan"]

[Excerpts] On Sunday Pakistan's political crisis reached climax. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dissolved the National Assembly and sacked Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Though not highly unexpected, Mr. Khan's move came at a time when his Muslim country is facing economic difficulties and political confusion. Sharif's ouster was the second time President Khan decided to invoke the Eighth Amendment which gives him broad powers. In August 1990, he used the same authority to get rid of corruption, nepotism and political ineptitude. [passage omitted]

These are difficult times for the friendly people of our neighboring country. For quite some time now Pakistan is in dire straits as far as the economy is concerned. Like scores of developing countries, living standards have fallen, inflation is galloping and corruption is rampant. Mr. Sharif, elected in 1990, had moved swiftly to introduce economic reforms including the selling of inefficient and bankrupt state enterprises, opening the stock exchange to foreign investment and easing foreign exchange regulations.

According to regional watchers his programs had slowly started to bear fruits notwithstanding the fact that he had become a target of many landed interests inside the country. Some also believed that Sharif's policies had 'struck' deeply at the country's 'political and economic power structure'.

As for the Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamabad's fast unfolding political developments are viewed here with serious concern and a deep sense of sorrow. It is public knowledge that Pakistan has a very important role to play in maintaining peace and security in the volatile region. This Muslim nation, to Iran's east, carries significant political weight in the Islamic world, not to mention the fact that almost all Muslim peoples and governments also look at Pakistan as one of the important countries in the developing world.

Islamic Iran is proud to have an excellent working relationship with Pakistan. Our common religion, ideology, culture and many other issues of mutual interest demand that we be worried about upheavals inside that country. Its honor, respect, integrity, prosperity and stability is a great source of happiness to the Iranian nation. So, it is obvious that Iran will always want to see the brotherly nation of Pakistan stable and capable of overcoming its present problems. Inshallah.

Tehran Views Recent Elections in Yemen

LD0205140893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 2 May 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Political observers have regarded Yemen's parliamentary elections which was held with the participation of 2.7 million people inside and outside the country as a successful move.

Inside the country these elections have been described as a step toward the ever more stabilization of the unification of the two Yemens after the ratification of the constitution.

Meanwhile as Yemen's President 'Ali Abdallah Salih—who will maintain his post for the next five years as well—has commented: Successful holding of united Yemen parliamentary elections will add to that country's popularity in the whole world.

However holding of the first free and multi-party elections in which 21 parties are taking part is regarded as a significant chance in the Arabian peninsular.

Specially that as many as 500,000 women had also taken part in these elections and 200 women were introduced as candidates and right now one of them has found her way in the parliament as well.

Of course it is worth noting that in the face of the positive move of the holding of elections in Yemen, there exists great problems and difficulties in that country that the future officials of that country including parliament deputies should embark on resolving them.

Among the most important dilemmas is that country's economic problems which has in particular aggravated under the influence of Yemen's support for Iraq in the course of the Persian Gulf war and as the consequence of the economic pressures born on that country by the countries opposing Iraq.

Discontinuation of economic aid to Sanaa by the southern states of the Persian Gulf, expulsion of Yemeni workers and as a consequence deprivation of that country of exuberant foreign currencies which the Yemeni workers residing in those countries used to send to their country, was a hard blow to Yemen's economy.

Therefore reconstruction of Yemen's economy which has been known since long as the poorest state in the Arabian peninsular requires prudence and will of the authorities.

Recent moves made by the Yemen in the field of renewing relations with the countries opposing Iraq is also regarded as an effort to coming out of the relative isolation and gaining economic aids.

At any rate political observers believe that despite economic, social and political difficulties and difference which exist among some parties about the election results, actualization of the affairs of the Yemeni Muslim people in removing their problems requires a general and all out cooperation and understanding among all, including parties, in Yemen's political scene.

President Lauds Information Dissemination

LD0305115093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 3 May 93

[Excerpt] President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today opened the sixth international book fair in Tehran, which is displaying 60,000 book titles from 700 foreign publishers, from 30 countries, and 520 Iranian publishers.

During inspection of several pavilions for foreign and domestic publishers, the president of the Cultural Revolution Council became familiar with the work and quality of the books displayed at this fair.

Delivering a speech at the opening ceremony, addressing the participants including Iranian and foreign scholars, foreign diplomats, and publishers, the president said: Fairs like this play a constructive role in making various nations familiar with each other's culture, literature, thoughts, and scientific resources.

Referring to the importance of disseminating information in the country, the president added: This fair has paid particular attention to books read by youths and children, which is a significant move. Youths are the greatest wealth and make the future in every society. Laying greater emphasis on the work needed to build the future generation would benefit the country significantly. [passage omitted]

'Victory-4' Naval Maneuvers Discussed

LD0305143493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 3 May 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Victory-4 great amphibious maneuvers have begun as of Monday with the participation of 36,000 personnel of three forces of the Army and the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps in the Persian Gulf waters. These maneuvers are to be staged in seven stages for ten days in an area covering 14,000 square miles of the regional waters. In these maneuvers the operational skill and combat capability of the Islamic Republic Defense Forces will be assessed. Victory-4 maneuvers with the scope envisaged for it, is to be staged with the active participation of 80 heavy flotilla, 100 fast-going frigates with special functions, and 25 helicopters. In the meantime, rockets will be used in these maneuvers for the first time. Maintaining operational preparedness and estimation of forces' defense capability are some of the most important responsibilities of an independent country's defense forces. Hence the staging of the current maneuvers by the Islamic Republic of Iran's defense forces is of special significance.

Our analysts have assessed the significance of this issue and the sensitivity of the Persian Gulf region. We invite you to listen to this discussion.

The Persian Gulf is considered as a unique strategic waterway through which 70 percent of the crude oil needed by the world pass. Naturally, safeguarding such a waterway is important both for the world and for the regional countries. From Iran's viewpoint the Persian Gulf littoral states must ensure the security of the region. With their common policy, they can reach understanding, and act jointly by performing their responsibilities. If such a viewpoint is confirmed by the Persian Gulf littoral states, the security and civility of the region will be naturally ensured by the regional countries. Under such conditions there will remain no chance for foreign powers' interference and intervention. Under the present circumstances, world arrogance is trying to justify its presence in the region by paving the way and taking political and propaganda advantage of the

existing conditions, and make it believe that the southern Persian Gulf littoral states' security will be ensured only with the continued presence of a foreign army. The announcement of 75 training and operational maneuvers by the United States and its allies, together with some of the southern Persian Gulf littoral states, which are to be staged during the current year, is in the same line. At any rate, the Islamic Republic of Iran, by adopting a logical and dignified policy has repeatedly invited the Persian Gulf littoral states to cooperation and coordination with the view of retaining identical viewpoints for reaching a collective security agreement, and its foreign policy believes that the security of the Southern Persian Gulf littoral states can be guaranteed solely be adopting a policy on extensive regional cooperation policy.

* GARDUN Magazine To Be Published Again

93LA0029G London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Apr 93 p 5

[Text] managed by 'Abbas Ma'rufi (author of the novel *Samfani-ye Mordegan [Symphony of the Dead Ones]* has resumed publication. The publication of this magazine was stopped by court order because of complaints against it, pending the completion of its final investigation. Complaints against the magazine alleged that it insulted the "sacred symbols of the revolution" and that it was working to bring back the "values of the time of the idolaters."

In both the initial and the appeal phases of the trial, in the presence of a jury, the court acquitted the manager of the magazine of all charges. The magazine manager's attorney in the court was Hamid Mosadeq, a prominent poet, whose profession is trial attorney.

The newspapers KEYHAN and JOMHURI-YE ESLAM expressed regret at the court's verdict and the renewed publication of GARDUN.

Maldives

National Mourning for Sri Lankan President

BK0205094893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0820 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 2 (AFP)—Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom declared three days of national mourning for assassinated President Ranasinghe Premadasa, officials here said Sunday.

The Maldives High Commission (embassy) here said in a statement that Gayoom was "shocked and dismayed to hear about the brutal assassination" of Premadasa.

"President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom has ordered three days of national mourning and to fly the national flag at half mast as a mark of respect to the late leader," the statement said.

In a message of condolence to Acting President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga, the Maldivian president also condemned "this insidious act of terrorism," and hailed Premadasa as a man who was committed to helping the poor.

Gayoom also praised Premadasa's role in promoting regional cooperation, especially during the Sri Lankan leader's tenure as chairman of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Premadasa's services towards promoting regional cooperation "will remain as a source of inspiration to us all," Gayoom said.

Maldives and Sri Lanka are members of the SAARC which also groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan. The SAARC states have all condemned the assassination.

Pakistan

Former Envoy Assails 'Selective' U.S. Policies

BK3004112593 Islamabad THE NATION in English 30 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Text] Lahore—Syeda Abida Hussain, former Ambassador to the United States, who returned to Pakistan on Monday after resigning in protest against the dismissal of the Nawaz Sharif government, has severely criticised the Clinton Administration for a "highly selective" policy on the issue of terrorism and for singling out Pakistan on the "nuclear issue".

Talking to THE NATION here on Wednesday, she said: "There is a measure of selectivity in the American approach and, therefore, I believe the motivation in holding out the threat of declaring Pakistan a terrorist state comes from America's displeasure with us on the nuclear question."

Abida strongly disagreed with the view that the crisis in Pakistan-U.S. relations was the result of a weak foreign policy. "I think that it is not a failure of our foreign policy, it is merely a question of making a choice between surrendering our nuclear programme or retaining it," she reiterated.

However, in the wake of the political instability in Pakistan, she believed that the U.S. government would probebly extend the 180-day deadline, which ends in June, by another 120 or 180 days.

Abida made it clear that she would not return to the U.S. as Ambassador even if the National Assembly was restored. "I am much too Pakistan-centred in my own personal outlook and believe that I can utilise my energies in the service of my country far more effectively inside Pakistan than outside Pakistan," she asserted.

Recapping her experience as Ambassador, Abida lauded the cooperation and support extended to her by officials and staff of the Pakistan Embassy, but lashed out at the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs for ineptitude, intrigues and wastage. "In seventeen months of representing in what is the most important Capital in the world today, I was sent only two briefs from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs," she disclosed.

On the recently-concluded meeting of the OIC [Islamic Conference Organization] Foreign Ministers in Karachi, she opined that the meeting had a shadow cast over it because of the whimsical internal developments in the power structure. "I think it would have meant much more if the duly-elected Prime Minister had opened it and not a caretaker Foreign Minister." Earlier, condemning the dissolution, she said it was not in the interest of Pakistan, internally or externally. "The dissolution has had an adverse impact on our economy because the Consortium meeting has been indefinitely postponed, and the lending institutions expressed very serious and deep concern."

Attacking the people in the establishment and the caretaker government, she said: "What I seriously question is that tax payers have contributed to an exercise in accountability which cost scores of rupees, and today those who were carrying out that exercise are sitting with those against whom they were carrying out the exercise."

"As a tax payer I would like to see that all that money which was spent on the individuals who were carrying out the process of accountability should be restored to the National Exchequer," she asserted.

Syeda Abida Hussain said that she would be contesting in the forthcoming elections as an independent associate of the UJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad]. Commenting on her recent meeting with deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, she said that the first thing he said to her was that she shouldn't have resigned because it would have been good for Pakistan to "have continuity in Washington." He spoke only of his court case and his mass-contact programme and did not say anything rancorous or cynical about anybody, she informed.

"I appreciated the fact that the man has the ability to look ahead rather than dwell on what has happened. What I liked also was that he has such a strong Pakistan-centred vision that he didn't even ask me what the official reaction was in the U.S. government circles," said Abida of the former Premier. Abida noted that Nawaz Sharif's ouster marked the beginning of his political career, "Nawaz Sharif, who emerged as a creation of the establishment, is now beginning to start his career as a populist."

Former Minister: Sharif Ouster Due to 'U.S. Conspiracies'

BK0105093793 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 29 Apr 93 pp 3,6

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Peshawar—Former federal minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said that Nawaz Sharif had placed the country on the path of progress and stability while disdainfully disregarding U.S. aid. He said that the Sharif government was terminated as a result of U.S. conspiracies. But it does not matter if Clinton comes to power or his father, it is God who will protect Nawaz Sharif. Addressing a meeting of former Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif at Peshawar's Sukarno Chowk, he said that Ghulam Ishaq Khan tried to sow discord between Nawaz Sharif and [Awami National Party chief] Wali Khan and hatched conspiracies in this regard, but without any success. Let [Senate chairman] Wasim Sajjad make preparations. The nation considers the dissolution of assemblies as an insult and it will never tolerate such an insult. He said that Ishaq Khan's presidency was full of (?uncertainty) and then he said that he could not compromise with Nawaz Sharif.

Investments in the country increased by 100 percent when Nawaz Sharif liberalized foreign exchange regulations. Sheikh Rashid said that Nawaz Sharif assumed office and then disregarded U.S. assistance saying that God is there. He said that people removed from power in Pakistan used to visit Washington after their ousters. But Nawaz Sharif is the only Pakistani prime minister who said that whether Clinton comes or his father, it does not matter, it is God who will help him. Nawaz Sharif did not compromise on the nuclear policy. The United States asked who is in power in Pakistan and making that country self-reliant? The gang of four—Ijlal Zaidi, Fazal Hussain, Mohammad Haroon and Ghulam Ishaq Khan—hatched the conspiracy. He said that Benazir Bhutto, who used to say the slogan of Go Daddy Go, is now giving the slogan of Come Daddy Come. Sheikh Rashid said that the question today does not concern the person of Nawaz Sharif, but the country. The country's frontiers and its economy are in danger. Ghulam Ishaq Khan said that Nawaz Sharif will go back to Model Town. But I say that he will not go to Model Town. We will rest only after bestowing the country's benevolence on Nawaz Sharif, he added.

Islamabad Comments on U.S. Document on Terrorism

BK0205032293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] The annual report of the U.S. State Department on terrorism has been sent to the Congress, in which no addition has been made to the 1992 list of countries which Washington thinks are involved in international terrorism. Cuba, North Korea, Iran, Iraq, Libya, and Syria are included in the list. According to the documents, North Korea and Syria have been included in the list even though they are not directly involved in any incident of terrorism. According to news agencies, it is astonishing that the Serb majority government of former Yugoslavia has not been included in the list of countries supporting terrorism even though it has been supporting the Bosnian Serbs who have unleashed a reign of terror

in Bosnia. In this way, the State Department has overlooked the decision of the International Court of Justice and the resolutions passed by the UN Security Council and several regional and human rights organizations. Another surprising fact is that despite massacring the Palestinians, Israel's name has not been included in the list. India's case is similar. India's name also does not figure in the list even though it has let loose a reign of terror against the people of occupied Kashmir.

In spite of the propaganda campaign carried out by India, Pakistan's name does not figure in the list, which vindicates Islamabad's stand that it is not providing any material assistance or support to individuals, groups, or parties in occupied Kashmir or Indian Punjab. A senior official of the Pakistani Embassy has expressed the hope that the regrettable issue of terrorism in the U.S.-Pakistan relationship will come to an end soon.

Prime Minister Meets U.S. Ambassador, Denies Terrorism

BK0105111393 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 29 Apr 93 pp 1,4

[Text] Islamabad (PAKISTAN PRESS AGENCY)—John Cameron Monjo, U.S. ambassador to Pakistan, had an important meeting with Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari at the Prime Minister's Secretariat on 28 April. Views were exchanged on various issues of mutual interest and Pakistan-U.S. relations during the two hour meeting. This was U.S. Ambassador Monjo's first formal meeting with Caretaker Prime Minister Balkh Sher Mazari after the dismissal of the Nawaz Sharif government.

The prime minister made it clear at the meeting that Pakistan wants to develop cordial relations with the United States. But no compromise can be made on principles in this regard. He apprised the U.S. ambassador of Pakistan's position on the issue of terrorism and said that Pakistan is a peace-loving country and it condemns terrorism at the international level. The allegations about terrorism leveled against Pakistan are baseless. He said that there is no justification for declaring Pakistan a terrorist state.

On the Kashmir issue, the prime minister said that the ongoing freedom movement in Kashmir is natural and that Pakistan is not providing the freedom fighters with any material help. He clearly told the U.S. ambassador that, of course, Pakistan will continue moral, diplomatic, and political support to Kashmiris. On the nuclear issue, the prime minister also clearly told the U.S. ambassador that the country's nuclear program is being continued in order to ensure its economic and industrial progress and to overcome its energy crisis. He added that Pakistan will never sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty unilaterally.

The U.S. ambassador congratulated Prime Minister Mazari on assuming the office and expressed the hope that Pakistan-U.S. relations will develop during his tenure.

ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN reports that the prime minister reiterated his commitment to the supremacy of the Constitution. He also exchanged views with the ambassador on some recent changes made in accordance with the Constitution and reaffirmed his government's pledge to conduct free and fair elections on the scheduled date. The prime minister also spoke of continuing liberal economic policies and implementing liberal economic reforms in keeping with national requirements. He also expressed his desire to develop and strengthen the traditional friendly relations between Pakistan and the United States. He expressed the hope that difficulties on the path of relations between the two countries will be overcome soon through mutual consultations and the atmosphere of mutual trust will be restored. He noted that these relations are important for the promotion and establishment of peace in the region. He said that Pakistan wants better relations with neighboring countries. The prime minister expressed the hope that our neighboring countries will also express similar sentiments in order to establish peace in Asia on the basis of justice and equality.

Bhutto Says U.S. Visit To Protect National Interests

BK3004140993 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 29 Apr 93 pp 1, 6

[Text] Islamabad—Benazir Bhutto, co-chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP], is leaving for the United States on 2 May. Answering questions from reporters at her residence here on Tuesday [27 April], Bhutto said she is going to the United States at the invitation of CNN to address its executives. She said she would give the address at the CNN center in Atlanta on 4 May. When asked whether she would exchange views with the American authorities on the issue of declaring Pakistan a terrorist state, she said the Government of Pakistan did not contact her in this regard. However, she said, I myself will go to Washington and do whatever possible to protect our national interests.

Government Making 'All Efforts' for Release of Envoys

BK0405023893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] The Pakistan Government is making all possible efforts for the release of three diplomats from Britain, the Netherlands and Germany who were kidnapped in Afghan territory. According to APP this was stated by a spokesman of the Foreign Ministry in Islamabad yesterday.

Mazari: Borders With India Closely Watched

BK3004104793 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 30 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Text] Caretaker Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari on Thursday said that Pakistan was keeping a close watch on borders with India and was prepared to cope with any situation.

He was talking to a group of journalists at Marriot hotel here after attending the general council meeting of Pakistan Muslim League(J) [PML(J)].

To a question he said Pakistan was making all out eforts to dispel the impression that it was involved in any terrorist activity. For the purpose illegal foreigners who were residing in Peshawar and many other cities had been deported and the process of deportation of illegal immigrants would continue, he added.

He said it was the responsibility of people to inform the government if they are aware of any illegal immigrants living in Pakistan.

The caretaker Prime Minister assured that the general elections would be free and fair. Mr. Mazari when asked whether co-Chairperson of Pakistan People's Party [PPP] Ms Benazir Bhutto had given him any threat to quit caretaker government on the issue of dissolution of provincial assemblies he said it was a social call by Ms Bhutto and she did not give any such threat.

He said he was confident that PML(J) and PPP would remain in the caretaker government and would work together in the best interest of the country.

Indian's Statement Said To Absolve Pakistan on Blasts

BK0205104893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Pakistan has welcomed the Indian Home Minister S.B. Chavan's statement in the Rajya Sabha saying in clear terms that there is no evidence to establish Pakistan's involvement in the Bombay bomb blasts. Welcoming the statement in Islamabad today, Akram Zaki, secretary general for foreign affairs, recalled that the Indian Foreign Minister, Dinesh Singh, had already stated that inquiries held in India do not give any solid evidence to prove Pakistan's hand in the Bombay blasts. Akram Zaki said Chavan's statement, which is a reiteration of Dinesh Singh's words, fully supports Pakistan's contention that it has nothing to do with the Bombay blasts at all. He said the disinformation campaign launched to implicate Pakistan in the blasts has come to light now, thereby exposing the real situation and bringing out the truth. After carrying out a propaganda drive for several weeks, the Indian authorities have now admitted that all their efforts to supplement their charges have proved futile.

Prime Minister, Foreign Minister To Leave for Colombo 5 May

BK0405112693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, is leaving Islamabad tomorrow for Colombo to attend the funeral of the Sri Lankan president, Ranasinghe Premadasa. He will be accompanied by the foreign minister, Mr. Sharifuddin Pirzada; the foreign secretary; and other senior officials.

Defense Minister: Armed Forces 'on Full Alert'

BK3004110193 Islamabad THE NATION in English 30 Apr 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad—Federal Defence Minister Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani has said that Pakistan is not insensitive to its defence responsibilities and the armed forces of Pakistan are on full alert in order to safeguard the safety and freedom of the country.

During an informal talk with THE NATION in his office on Thursday the Defence Minister assured that the internal political conditions of the country were not alarming and added that according to the Constitution, elections would be held on July 14, as scheduled and naturally a new government would emerge.

New Army Deputy Chief of Staff, ISI Chief Appointed

BK0105114993 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 1 May 93 p 1

[By Shakil Shaikh]

[Text] Islamabad—Chief of the General Staff Lt Gen Farrukh has reportedly been appointed as the Deputy Chief of the Army Staff [DCOAS].

As a local arrangement, Army Chief General Abdul Waheed has approved Lt Gen Farrukh's appointment as DCOAS, which is not a tenure post in Pakistan.

Lt Gen Farrukh, who was superseded at the time of the appointment of the New Army Chief after General Asif Nawaz' death, has also got a year's extension as a three-star general. He was due to retire on June 2 this year.

Sources confided to THE NEWS that Lt Gen Farrukh would continue to hold the post of the Chief of the General Staff (CGS) as well.

Besides General Farrukh, another superseded [as published], Lt Gen Arif Bangash, who is currently Quarter Master General (QMG), has also been given one year's extension. Lt Gen Bangash was due to retire on June 3 this year.

Sources say that Lt Gen Farrukh's name was originally considered for the Post of Deputy Chief of the Army Staff by late General Asif Nawaz.

While the Post of Vice Chief of the Army Staff (VCOAS) is a tenure post for three years, the position of DCOAS is an untenured post in Pakistan Army. Only a four-star general can occupy the position of VCOAS, while a three star-general is appointed as DCOAS.

In the history of the country, Lt Gen Imtiaz Warriach was the first who was appointed as DCOAS during Ziaul Haq's time. However, General Sawar Khan, General K.M. Arif and Gen Mirza Aslam Beg served as VCOAS on different occasions during Gen Zia's 11-year long rule.

Meanwhile, it is also learnt that Lt Gen Akram has been appointed Master General Ordnance. He will succeed Lt Gen Javaid Ashraf who has already been appointed Director-General Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). Lt Gen Ashraf is expected to take charge of his new assignment on Monday. His predecessor Lt Gen Javed Nasir has been posted out in the GHQ as chairman Logistic Reforms Committee.

Sharif's Intelligence Chief Kicked Out of Military

BK0405094193 Hong Kong AFP in English 0921 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Islamabad, May 4 (AFP)—Lieutenant General Javed Nasir, who led Pakistan's powerful military intelligence agency under deposed premier Nawaz Sharif, has been fired, a Defence Ministry official said Tuesday.

Nasir was removed from active service on Monday after leading the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) for 13 months. He has already been replaced by Lieutenant General Javed Ashraf, 51, who assumed the office of director general of ISI on Monday, the official said. Sources here said Nasir was fired six months ahead of expected retirement.

The firing came two weeks after the sacking of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the dissolution of the National Assembly by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in the wake of a bitter power tussle. Nasir was considered close to Sharif, whose attempts to clip the presidency's sweeping powers led to his government dissmissal on April 18.

Nasir's sacking by the interim government of Balkh Sher Mazari, appointed to succeed Sharif until elections in July, came as Islamabad was trying to allay fears in Washington that Pakistan may be sponsoring terrorism. He had remained associated with Afghan affairs, maintaining close relations with mojahedin leaders. Under the late military ruler Mohammed Ziaul Haq, the ISI had been used as a conduit for channelling covert Western arms and military assistance to the Afghan guerrillas.

Nasir participated in intra-Afghan negotiations which led to the transfer of power in Kabul on April 28, 1992 to the mojahedin after 13 years of communist rule. In March this year he was engaged with Sharif and the Saudi Arabian intelligence chief Prince Turki al-Faisal in hammering out the Islamabad peace accord intended to end months of bloodshed in Afghanistan.

ISI has frequently interfered in Pakistan's foreign policy. India has also accused ISI of involvement in the Moslem separatist movement in Indian-held Kashmir. India says militants are being armed and trained by Pakistani intelligence for terrorist activities in Kashmiri. Pakistan says it is politically and diplomatically committed to Kashmir's right to self-determination under a 1948 UN resolution which calls for a referendum in the Moslem-majority area, but denies any material support to the insurgents.

The firing follows Mazari's meeting with U.S. Ambassador John Monjo last week in which the caretaker premier reiterated Pakistan's position that it opposes all forms of terrorism. Islamabad has escaped the terrorist tag for the time being, as the U.S. State Department in its annual report Friday did not include Pakistan in its list of countries said to sponsor terrorism, and which now includes Iran, Syria, Libya, North Korea and Cuba. A final decision on Pakistan was pending on its performance in the future, reports here said.

Some commentators were not surprised over the changes in view of alleged ISI involvement in domestic politics and a liaison with the civilian Intelligence Bureau (IB), whose chief Imtiaz Ahmed himself resigned after Sharif's dismissal. The change was expected after the change of government, one analyst said.

Ishaq Khan, Bhutto Meeting 'Inconclusive'

BK3004111593 Islamabad THE NATION in English 30 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Text] Islamabad—The meeting between President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Co-Chairperson, Benazir Bhutto on Thursday morning remained inconclusive and failed to resolve the impasse created as a result of President reneging on his promise to Benazir to dissolve the provincial assemblies.

According to informed sources, Ishaq, in his second meeting with the PPP Co-chairperson since the sacking of Mian Nawaz government, stuck to his guns and as a response to Benazir's demand that the provincial assemblies be dissolved as a follow-up to the dissolution of the National Assembly, gave his stock reply that since these assemblies were working in accordance with the Constitution there was no reason to dissolve them.

The President did not concede Benazir's demand for the forming of an independent Election Commission on the plea that the job of Chief Election Commissioner was a tenure post and hence it was not possible to change him. He, however, agreed to appoint Provincial Election

Commissiosners in Punjab and NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] after consultation with PPP Co-Chairperson.

According to another source, Benazir gave a counterproposal to the President according to which the general elections be conducted under army supervision.

The President refused to commit himself even on this count on the plea that he will have to speak with Chief of the Army Staff General Wahid Kakar about it, who would have the final say on this maner.

Ishaq has also reneged on his promise to Benazir regarding a possible powersharing formula in the PPP's powerbase of Sindh. The designation of Sindh Chief Minister Muzaffar Hussain Shah was to be the focal point of this formula. However, no such resignation is in the air as Muzaffar Shah has neither offered to resign nor has the President asked him to do so.

On the contrary the Sindh Chief Minister has launched an ambitious advertising campaign in the media to project himself. Despite all the dismal signals emanating from the Presidency there is little chance that PPP will pull out of the caretaker coalition. In fact, by allowing several more members to be inducted in the Federal Cabinet Thursday afternoon Benazir gave just the opposite signal that despite the odds she has chosen to fight within the establishment rather than opt out.

The All Parties Conference (APC) being held Friday afternoon (today) will examine all its options in the light of its experience with the Presidency during the past 10 days. However, according to insiders there are few options for its leaders but to remain within the coalition and serve the narrow interests of the Presidency.

Prime Minister Balkh Sher Mazari has said that there is no threat to the caretaker set-up and the PPP will continue to sit in the government.

Talking to newsmen at a local hotel on Thursday the Prime Minister said Benazir Bhutto has not threatened to quit the government. He said the PML [Pakistan Muslim League] and the PPP have joined the cabinet in the larger interest of the country and "will remain together".

Prime Minister had come there to briefly attend the general council meeting of the Pakistan Muslim League [PML]. The meeting was held in order to elect the new President of the PML (J) [Junejo].

Responding to a question about the U.S. move to declare Pakistan a "terrorist state", Balkh Sher Mazari said: "The government is alive to the situation and is trying to dispel the impression that Pakistan is involved in such activities. The illegal immigrants in Peshawar and other parts of the country are being identified and deported." Prime Minister indicated that there had been few changes in the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI). It was not clear whether he was meant to say that shuffling in the ISI is also a part of the government's efforts to tackle the issue of terrorism.

To another question about any tension on borders with India, he said the government was fully aware of the situation and there was nothing to worry about.

When asked about the next general elections, the Prime Minister repeated his earlier pledge that the electoral process will be free and fair.

Earlier, the Prime Minister, while making a brief speech at the PML meeting endorsed the resolution proposed to pay tributes to the late party president Mohammad Khan Junejo. He cautioned the PML workers not to indulge in petty politics. "We should shun all differences among us. The PML general council meeting ended without electing the party President and was put off till May 9. The postponement was proposed by Punjab Chief Minister Manzoor Ahmed Watoo and endorsed by the majority of the Leaguers present on the occasion.

All-Party Group Urges President To Dissolve Assemblies

BK0305101993 Karachi DAWN in English 3 May 93 p 20

[Text] Islamabad, May 2—Eleven leaders of PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] and NDA [National Democratic Alliance] called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on Sunday and demanded immediate dissolution of the provincial assemblies without which, they said, free and fair polls could not be held in the country.

"Today we have a national emergency and all powers required to meet an emergency should be used," the delegation, led by Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, stressed on the President.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, NDA Secretary General Abdul Hafeez Pirzada said the President had agreed to consider their demand for dissolution of the provincial assemblies, "but he had committed nothing."

The leaders who called on the President included Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Ghulam Mustafa Khar, Sardar Farooq Khan Leghari, Malik Mohammad Qasim, Khurshid Mahmud Kashri, Mansoor Ahmad Gichki, Mohammad Afzal Khan, Abdul Hafeez Pirzada, Mairaj Mohammad and Maulana Tahirul Qadri.

Mr Pirzada said the country was facing a grave situation and all resources of the state must be utilised to ensure that the elections were free and results were not tampered with.

The NDA leader said President Ishaq and the delegation had no difference of opinion on a number of points, including electoral reforms based on proportional within 15 to 20 days and the "NDA and the PDA would provide for the justification for carrying out there reforms." [sentence as published]

He said the chief election comissioner should resign as "morally he should behave like a responsible person since the opposition demand had made him a controversial man."

Mr Pirzada said: "The other two members of the Election Commission could be appointed with consensus."

He criticised the size of the caretaker government and said that in his view "it is not a national government."

Asked what did he mean by a government of national consensus, Pirzada said it should have included members from the party of Mr Nawaz Sharif as well.

Answering a question about the time the alliance leaders would wait for the dissolution of provincial assemblies, Mr Pirzada said: "The cutoff point would be reached someday.

"Every day the situation is changing and it is a grave crisis which should be handled responsibly," Mr Pirzada said.

Asked about the decision of the Cabinet to conduct accountability of the ousted government, Mr Pirzada said: "This should not be made an excuse to delay the elections."

He said the NDA had demanded across-the-board accountability from 1985.

Parliamentary Minister Rules Out Dissolving Assemblies

BK0305102593 Karachi DAWN in English 3 May 93 p 16

[Text] Multan, May 2—The Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affaris, Syed Tanvir-ul-Hassan Gilani, said here on Sunday that the provincial assemblies would not be dissolved and there should remain no doubt in anybody's mind in this regard.

He was answering newsmen's questions at the Multan Airport on his arrival here for the first time after becoming a Federal Minister in the caretaker government.

"We are trying to include our colleagues of other parties in the government so that there exists no justification for the dissolution of the provincial assemblies."

He said that the step of dissolving the National Assembly by the President was constitutional.

He further said that the caretaker government was not in favour of imposing agricultural tax, and also not in favour of extending the period of the caretaker government and the date of the next elections, which must be held within the 90 days of the dissolution of the National Assembly.

The Minister ruled out the possibility of leaving the Government by certain parties and alliance if the provincial assemblies are not dissolved.

He said that the caretaker government has been formed to hold free and fair elections and the representatives of all political parties and alliances are now in the government to ensure free and fair elections.

The people of the country would be fully satisfied over fairness and impartiality of the polls, Syed Tanvir Gilani said.

He said that Constitution is sacred and should be sacred to all in the country, and all business must be carried out strictly in accordance with the latter and in spirit of the constitution.

To a question, he said that when Mr Asif Zardari could attend National Assembly sessions as a member of it why could not he be appointed a Minister.

To another question, he said that Sardar Asif Ahmed Ali had contradicted his statement about terming Pakistan a terrorist country, and therefore, there was no hurdle in his appointment as a Minister.

To yet another question he said that the President had made no commitment with any political party about dissolution of provincial assemblies.

Premier Promises Fair Elections at Scheduled Time

BK0405092993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, has reiterated his government's determination to discharge its responsibility toward the holding of free, fair, and impartial elections on the due date. In a statement in the Senate this morning, he declared that being a caretaker government their foremost task is to hold elections and they would spare no efforts to fulfill their commitment to the nation and to the satisfaction of every Pakistani. In this way, he said, they would be able to restore the confidence and faith of the people in the government.

The prime minister assured that they would not put restrictions on any legitimate activity, and without any discrimination all political parties and individuals would be free to propagate their manifestos and programs. He further stated that the government would rather facilitate their task within the bounds of law. All necessary measures will be taken to make the process of elections transparent and credible. Mir Balkh Sher Mazari hoped that the political leaders would cooperate with the government enabling the people of Pakistan to exercise their verdict freely and without any fear.

Earlier, during the question hour, the Senate was informed that the government was exploring various options to improve operational efficiency of the Port Qasim. The minister for law and justice, Mr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan, told the house that the process of privatization of Port Qasim Authority has been stopped. The

house was also informed that the Pakistan Telecommunication Corporation has signed four turnkey contracts for adding 5,000 lines to its system.

Bhutto Expects Unfair Polls if Assemblies Not Dissolved

BK0305102793 Karachi DAWN in English 3 May 93 p 20

[Text] Larkana, May 2—Pakistan People's Party [PPP] never accepted the 1990 elections, but we kept sitting in the House only to keep the democratic process moving. This was stated by PDA [People Democratic Alliance] chief and PPP Co-Chairman Benazir Bhutto during her short visit here on Saturday.

Criticising the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] government, the PDA chief said that it had failed to take any concrete steps for democracy nor it initiated any move against the Eighth Amendment, adding that "if the previous government had done so we would have extended our support wholeheartedly."

Talking about the privatisation, she said that it had sent a wave of insecurity among people and state owned units were sold out to "selected" persons for peanuts.

Ms Benazir Bhutto said that national government was constituted for holding fair, free and impartial election. And the 90-day schedule was the capital purpose behind the dissolution of the National Assembly, she added.

The PDA chief expressed her fears about the outcome of elections if the provincial assemblies were not dissolved, saying "we do not believe that fair elections could be held in the presence of these MPAs [members of provincial assemblies]."

Answering a question, the PDA chief said that she did not believe in politics of blackmailing and the issue of PAs [provincial assemblies] would be resolved in the light of the APC [all-party conference] preceedings.

Agencies add:

The PPP co-chairman said the government had been clearly told that the elections must be held fairly in the larger national interest. "We have demanded that elections should be conducted by the Army within 90 days and provincial assemblies be dissolved before the elections." "We believe if provincial assemblies are not dissolved, fair and impartial elections cannot be ensured as the provincial machinery could be used for rigging the elections."

Ms Bhutto said that some of their demands have been accepted whereas rest were being deliberated upon. She said a confidence is to be built up among the people that elections would be held in a fair and impartial manner.

When asked if she is going to set a deadline for dissolution of assemblies, she said, she did not believe in the politics of blackmailing. She said the APC was already seized with the issue and the matter would be sorted out through the process of negotiation.

Later, talking to newsmen Ms Bhutto said that PPP had always served the cause of the workers and labourers and would continue to support their cause.

She said it was the PPP which lifted ban imposed on labour unionism. It was her party which restored the retrenched workers to their jobs.

She said that she led the May Day procession in Multan to express PPP's solidarity with the working classes in all the four provinces.

She reiterated that any privatisation act would fully safeguard the rights and interests of workers and labourers.

Nawaz Sharif Speaks of Need for 'New Political System'

BK0405023493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Former Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has emphasized the need to set up a new political system in the country and to get rid of opportunism and avarice from the national politics. Talking to editors and senior journalists in Islamabad yesterday, he said without a new political system, it is impossible to end political instability and achieve the goal of economic progress. He criticized the accountability process against him.

Sri Lanka

Reportage on Investigation of Premadasa Assassination

Tamil Help Sought in Identifying Assassin

BK0205080493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0731 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 2 (AFP)—Sri Lankan authorities have sought help from pro-government Tamil groups to establish the identity of the suspected assassin of President Ranasinghe Premadasa, Tamil sources said Sunday.

Tamil groups that were assisting security forces in their drive against separatist Tiger guerrillas in the northeast were given photographs of the suspected suicide-bomber, the sources said.

"They (the groups) have been given photographs of a man believed to be the assassin. He is clean shaven, about 30 years," a Tamil source said, adding that parts of the man's body chest downwards had been blown off.

Three Tamil organisations, Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation, the Peoples Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam and the Eelam People's Democratic Party have been cooperating with security forces against Tigers in the northeast.

They were all former militant groups that once fought alongside the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas for a separate state in the northeast for the island's two-million minority Tamils.

Sri Lankan authorities said they believed the assassin was a suicide-bomber, strongly hinting it could be the work of LTTE guerrillas who are known to carry out such attacks. But the LTTE has denied involvement in Premadasa's killing.

Police Blame Assassination on LTTE

BK0205154693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1543 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 2 (AFP)—Sri Lankan police on Sunday accused the country's most powerful Tamil Tiger guerrilla group of assassinating President Ranasinghe Premadasa and killing 23 others by deploying a suicide bomber.

A senior police investigator said the assassin who was riding a push bicycle set off a powerful bomb just five feet (about 1-1/2 metres) from the president when he was stopped by elite police commandos doing bodyguard duty.

"We know it is the work of a terrorist group and it is the LTTE. No other terrorist group can carry out such an attack. Suicide bombings are the modus operandi of the Tigers," police Crime Detection Bureau (CDB) director Lionel Gunatilake told a press conference.

He said the head of the suspected assassin was found with a broken cyanide capsule embedded in the neck. Tiger guerrillas are known to have used cyanide to commit suicide after past attacks.

The LTTE earlier denied involvement in the murder and pointed the finger at Premadasa's political opponents, including supporters of the slain opposition leader Lalith Athulathmudali, who was assassinated just eight days earlier.

Gunatilake said Premadasa had been warned against walking among the people at the procession. The president had also brushed aside police advice to ban small groups of supporters joining the well-planned march from the sidelines.

Seven police officers, including elite Special Task Force Commandos, were among those killed while 38 still remained in hospital after Saturday's blast, Gunatilake said.

He said the police may seek the assistance of Britain's Scotland Yard detectives who are already here to investigate the assassination of Athulathmudali, Premadasa's main political rival.

Police Make First Arrest

BK0405110493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0930 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 4 (AFP)—Sri Lanka police Tuesday made their first arrest in connection with the assassination of President Ranasinghe Premadasa and began interrogating the suspect, an investigator said.

K. Saman Sujeeva, who was taken in Tuesday morning, was believed to be an associate of the suspected Tamil Tiger guerrilla who blew up Premadasa, killing himself and 23 others as well, at a May Day rally Saturday.

"We have brought in a man called Saman Sujeeva this morning and we hope he will be able to throw some light on the case. We are in the process of interrogating him," Police Superintendent Lionel Gunatilake said.

He said the man owned a small grocery store near Premadasa's private residence and was suspected to have been the "contact man" for the assassin. Police have blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for the slaying.

Gunatilake said police had yet to establish firmly the identity of the suicide bomber but initial reports suggested that he may have been running the grocery store for Saman Sujeeva, who was described as a man in his late twenties.

Tamil sources here said the suspected assassin, who was decapitated in the blast, was a Tamil youth from the island's northern Jaffna peninsula where the LTTE has its stronghold and had come to the capital about two years ago.

They said the man seemed to have had access to Premadasa's private residence, which was usually open to all ruling party supporters as well as constituents of the president's Colombo Central electorate.

"We think the assassin was about 20 to 24 years of age. We are trying to firmly establish his identity," Gunatilake said, adding that police found a trace of cyanide on his neck.

Hardcore Tiger activists are known to take cyanide to prevent capture. Tiger guerrillas have been blamed for several suicide attacks, including the assassination of former Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi in March 1991.

Gunatilake said police meanwhile have sought assistance from Britain's Scotland Yard detectives who arrived here to work on a previous assassination to investigate Premadasa's murder too.

The four-member team from Scotland Yard arrived here a week ago to investigate the April 23 killing of opposition leader Lalith Athulathmudali.

Troops Withdrawn From War Zone To Prevent Violence

BK0205074893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0641 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 2 (AFP)—Hundreds of troops have been pulled out from Sri Lanka's embattled northeast to prevent a political backlash in the rest of the country to the assassination of President Ranasinghe Premadasa, officials said.

The interim government was not taking any chances despite the usual Sunday calm in the Sri Lankan capital and the provinces after the lifting of an islandwide night curfew at dawn, officials said.

"At least a thousand troops have been withdrawn from the war zone. These men will reinforce security forces and police in Colombo and other vulnerable spots," a defence official said.

Field commanders expect that the withdrawal of the troops will not affect military operations in the northeast against separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas, the official said.

"These soldiers were in fact sent to the area (northeast) to reinforce our men during major military operations. At the moment they can be brought down," the offical said.

State television and radio meanwhile continued to repeat an appeal from acting president Dingiri Banda Wijetunga for calm and restraint.

"As you all know, our late leader stood steadfastly for the maintenance of discipline and dignity. The greatest tribute we can therefore pay to his revered memory is to maintain law and order," Wijetunge said.

Wijetunge said he had asked the country's three service commanders and police inspector general to "take all necessary measures to maintain law and order" and vowed to punish those responsible for the assassination.

Wijetunge, 71, took charge of the country together with the Cabinet of Ministers who will function as a committee "to guide the affairs of state in this hour of grave national crisis," said a statement from president's office.

Some 2,000 extra police were earlier drafted into the city under a massive security cover for Saturday's May Day rallies to prevent violence similar to that which marred the funeral of opposition leader Lalith Athulathmudali.

Sri Lankans woke up to a calm Sunday following the tension punctuated by celebrations by opposition activists across the country in the wake of Premadasa's murder here by a suspected suicide-bomber.

Opposition activists across the country had Saturday set off firecrackers to celebrate the slaying which came just over a week after Athulathmudali's murder, witnesses said.

Correspondents in north central Anuradhapura, which is close to the war zone, reported that opposition supporters continued a barrage of celebratory fire crackers Sunday.

Hundreds of people made use of the lifting of the curfew at dawn Sunday to stock up on provisions fearing further curfews and sightseers poured into the streets as heavily-armed troops kept up their vigil.

"The high-level of security will continue at least until Premadasa's funeral. So far there is calm but troublemakers never announce their plans in advance," a senior police official said.

Long queues formed outside news agents' street stalls and pockets of people gathered near the site of the assassination, in the commercial Armour Street area. There were no deliveries of newspapers to regular subscribers.

Premadasa's body was taken to his residence from hospital as large crowds made their way to pay their last respects to the slain leader amid tight security by elite commandos.

Legislators and senior members from the ruling United National Party (UNP) were Sunday due to hold a series of crisis meetings amid fears of a bitter power struggle, officials said.

Premadasa, who was commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, is to be accorded a state funeral with military honours Thursday. The cabinet declared a six-day period of national mourning from Saturday.

Tamils Flee Amid Fears of Reprisals

BK0405131093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1251 GMT 4 May 93

[Excerpt] Colombo, May 4 (AFP)—Thousands of Tamils have fled from assassinated president Ranasinghe Premadasa's home constituency here amid fears of a violent backlash to his slaying by a suspected Tamil Tiger guerrilla.

Tamil sources said Tuesday that about 5,000 Tamils in Premadasa's constituency of Keselwatte left their homes fearing reprisals from the majority Sinhalese community in the area.

"There is a lot of tension in Keselwatte and (nearby) Kotahena. Some have moved with friends elsewhere or gone out of Colombo altogether," an official of the pro-government People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam said.

However, acting President Dingiri Banda Wijetunge told reporters here Tuesday that he had ordered security forces to "take all possible precautionary measures" to prevent a backlash.

"We don't envisage any such backlash ... There need be no doubts or fears about this," Wijetunge said, adding that they were yet to firmly establish the identity of his predecessor's assassin.

Other Tamil groups said they had expressed concern to the authorities and have asked for additional security for Tamil majority areas of Colombo to prevent attacks against the minority community.

Premadasa was assassinated Saturday by a suicide bomber who police say was a member of the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Premadasa, a Sinhalese, is to be given a state funeral on Thursday. [passage omitted]

Tamil Group Condemns Killing of Premadasa, Athulathmudali

BK0405070893 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0607 GMT 4 May 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 4 (LANKAPUVATH)—The nation must come to realise that the tendency to resort to bloody violence, be it in the category of individual terrorism, state terrorism or civil wars, can only be countered through a concerted campaign against the brutalization of human values and the degeneration of political systems, says Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front [EPRLF] in a message of condolence.

The message released to the press Monday also says: "Our people have suffered enough. The motions of carrying out 'investigations' to identify the assasins cannot be a substitute for the search for a peaceful equitable and rational solution to the problems that face this nation.

We take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families of president, the DUNF [Democratic United Bational front] Leader Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali and the innocent civilians who died a meaningless death.

Parliament Meets on Presidential Election

BK0405075693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] The Sri Lankan parliament today met briefly to discuss election of a new president following the assassination of Ranasinghe Premadasa. During its brief session of five minutes, the parliament secretary general formally informed the House of the passing away of the former president, Ranasinghe Premadasa, and fixed Friday [7 May] as the deadline for filing nominations to succeed him. The ruling party has nominated the acting president, Mr. D.B. Wijetunge, as its candidate. The opposition is still to decide. If there are no nominations, a vote will be held within two days. A single nominee will be elected immediately.

Provincial Council Polls To Be Held as Planned 17 May

BK0205092893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0838 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 2 (AFP)—Acting president Dingiri Banda Wijetunga has promised Sri Lanka's opposition that provincial council elections would be held as scheduled on May 17, the president's office said in a statement Sunday.

Wijetunga made this pledge at a meeting with opposition leader Sirima Bandaranaike who also asked for increased security to heads of all political parties and provincial council candidates, the statement said.

The acting president told Bandaranaike that the "government had already decided to hold the provincial council elections as already determined," the statement said.

Meanwhile, state-radio announced that parliament will convene Tuesday to discuss the crisis in the wake of the assassination of President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Wijetunga also assured Bandaranaike that security arrangements would be further tightened for political parties campaigning ahead of the provincial council elections.

Acting President Rules Out Change in Economic Policies

BK0405111793 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Acting President D.B. Wijetunge, who is also finance minister, said in a statement issued yesterday that the country's financial and economic policies will not be changed. The acting president said that he was making the statement in view of concerns within the business community, both national and foreign, regarding the country's future economic policies. He asserted that there will be no change in the prudent fiscal policy of reducing our budget deficit nor in the development strategies adopted by the government. The liberalization of the trade and payments will remain unchanged and the government will continue to further such liberalization.

Slaying Said 'Serious Blow' to Economic Hopes

BK0205052693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0513 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 2 (AFP)—The assassination of Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa here Saturday

is a serious blow to the nation's bid to become South Asia's economic power house, analysts say.

The killing carried out by a suspected suicide bomber could not have come at a worst time for the government which was trying to recover from the violent backlash of the April 23 assassination here of key opposition leader Lalith Athulathmudali.

"Both foreign and local investors will now have to reconsider their entire policy here," a stock market analyst said, expressing fears that there may be panic when trading the Colombo Stock Exchange is scheduled to open Monday.

Premadasa, 68, had launched an ambitious investment promotion drive, reconstituting the country's two main investment control agencies into a single entity geared to help speed up foreign investment approvals.

Tax holidays ranging from five to 10 years were offered by the government under a policy initiated by Premadasa and aimed at expanding industry to remote areas of the island in a bid to jumpstart rural economies.

But his death has left a political vacuum in the ruling United National Party (UNP), which now has no strong candidate to hold the presidency held by Premadasa since January 2, 1989.

Premadasa's replacement, 71-year-old Prime Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunge, is regarded as a political lightweight and practises a casual style of politics in sharp contrast to Premadasa's aggressive governing.

The late president had also been pushing for greater regional trade and was responsible for initiating the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA), which was adopted by members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) at a summit in Bangladesh last month.

SAARC groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Premadasa was said to have hoped that free trade in South Asia would propel Sri Lanka to a similar position enjoyed by Singapore in Southeast Asia. Sri Lanka was the first South Asian country to liberalise its trade and foreign exchange policies.

Scores of influential development bankers from about 30 countries in the Asia-Pacific region were still in the Sri Lankan capital when Premadasa was blown up as he directed a UNP May Day procession here.

The 16th annual conference of the Association of Development Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP) opened here Wednesday, the day rioting broke out at the funeral of Athulathmudali.

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka on Friday said the country recorded a 4.3 percent growth in 1993, compared to 4.6 percent the previous year and projected better times ahead with increased foreign investment.

However, upbeat estimates for greater foreign interest in the economy may have to be revised in the wake of the latest assassination that has caused political uncertainity, foreign ministry officials said.

"As far as investment promotion is concerned, we are back at square one," one official said.

Colombo's tiny stock exchange has been falling steadily in the past year and there have been few buyers for debt-ridden deluxe hotels here that are up for sale.

Financial analysts said the April 23 assassination of Athulathmudali during his election campaign for the May 17 provincial council polls compounded problems in an already depressed financial market.

The latest bout of political instability in the country could further compound worries about the ailing stock exchange and create new concerns for fledgling financial markets, they added.

Assassination Leaves Unprecedented Power Vacuum

BK0205075493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0727 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 2 (AFP)—The assassination of Sri Lanka's strong-man, President Ranasinghe Premadasa, has left an unprecedented power vacuum that could plunge the country into a "political Lebanon," analysts here said Sunday.

Premadasa was blown up by a suspected suicide bomber as he led his United National Party (UNP) in a May Day rally, just eight days after another major slaying of his main political rival and opposition leader Lalith Athulathmudali.

"The two assassinations so close to each other were aimed at destabilising the entire political fabric of the country and weaken democracy in a very dramatic way," Liberal Party Leader Chanaka Amaratunga told AFP.

He said the ruling party lacked a nationally accepted figure to take over the leadership and would remain in a state of confusion and lack of direction at least in the short term.

"It is going to be the most difficult transition for the UNP since independence (from Britain in 1948). I am not too pessimistic, but this is going to be a very very serious catastrophe for the country.

The assassination "has left a vaccum that is hard to fill. With Premadasa you knew where the country was heading. They might be able to keep up the reforms, but it is going to be very difficult," Amaratunga said.

Cabinet Spokesman and Industries Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said he was too shocked to comment on the immediate political aftermath of the assassination.

Sri Lanka's political lightweight Prime Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunge took over as the acting president before parliament elects an MP as the new head of state within one month.

Thereafter, the new president could continue for the remaining time of Premadasa's term which was to expire in December 1994.

Wijetunge, who comes from an upper class elite family, had been a politician with a relaxed, low profile approach which has attracted many sympathisers.

Although he was state minister for defence under Premadasa as commander in chief of the armed forces and police, Wijetunge himself had admitted that his job was ornamental.

Non-controversial Wijetunge was seen by political analysts as a compromise candidate as electing a more dynamic minister could lead to factionalism which in 1991 led to Athulathmudali leaving the UNP to form a rival party.

Athulathmudali's Democratic United National Front (DUNF) was formed after UNP dissidents failed to impeach the president in August 1991 and their raison d'etre was the opposition to Premadasa.

"Now that Premadasa is no more there could be reconciliation between the DUNF and the UNP. Otherwise it would be to the advantage of leftist parties," a spokesman for a radical left-wing New Equal Society Party (NSSP) said.

A Tamil politician said they were concerned that instability in Colombo would be a further blow to finding a solution to the island's long-drawn ethnic conflict which claims a daily death toll in the northern and eastern regions.

"This is going to be a mess. We are not interested in a single party, but if there is instability in the government that will affect the entire country. It could lead to total anarchy," Tamil politician Dharmalingam Sidhathan said.

Sri Lanka's opposition has been in total disarray without a proper leader since repeated electoral defeats since 1977, and Athulathmudali was seen as a man who could have given direction to the fragmented anti-government forces.

The assassination has also raised doubts about the staging of crucial provincial council elections that were scheduled for May 17. Postponement of local elections may compound the uncertainty, analysts said.

NSSP legislator Vasudeva Nanayakkara said there was a "sense of relief" in the country after Premadasa's assassination although "I am not saying it is a good thing that someone is killed." "Now there is a chance for democratic processes to fun@tion without fear of suppression. In our long culture there is no record of people celebrating a funeral. "Even in death, Premadasa has violated our tradition and culture," Nanayakkara, an opposition firebrand in parliament, said.

Assassination May Worsen Ethnic Divisions

BK0405033293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0135 GMT 4 May 93

[by Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Colombo, May 4 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's drawn-out ethnic bloodletting may take a turn for the worse with the assassination of President Ranasinghe Premadasa who was regarded here as the best hope for minorities, political analysts say.

The slaying, which stunned the country, has overshadowed the ongoing Tamil separatist war and troops have been withdrawn from the northeastern battle zones to be deployed in the rest of the country to prevent rioting.

Police allegations that the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), was involved in the Premadasa murder have brought the focus back to the complex Tamil politics, however.

"We have gone away from a solution (to the ethnic conflict). He was the best man we could have. He did not really do anything to solve our problems nor did he do anything to harm us," Tamil politician Dharmalingam Sidhathan said.

Sidhathan's People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) has been cooperating with the government in its drive against Tigers in the island's northeastern regions where they are battling to establish a Tamil homeland.

A leftist Tamil group, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), said Premadasa undermined efforts to devolve powers to provincial councils in line with a 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord aimed at ending the Tamil conflict.

Premadasa was an ardent critic of the 1987 pact between his predecessor Junius Jayewardene and former Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi and got New Delhi to withdraw its troops soon after he came to power in 1989.

Within three months of Indian forces completing a pullout from Sri Lanka's northeast, the LTTE, which was directly negotiating with Premadasa, went back to fighting, seriously embarassing him.

"Premadasa's adventurism aggravated the Tamil question. Our experience was that whatever he said about

solving the problem was mere rhetoric that was never translated into action," EPRLF spokesman L. Ketheeswaran said.

However, he said political instability in Colombo and the implication of the LTTE in the slaying could strengthen the hawks in the ruling United National Party (UNP) to pursue a tough military campaign.

"There is talk about a national government and this could either help them to resolve the ethnic conflict politically or, on the other hand, make the hardliners stronger for a big military offensive," Ketheeswaran said.

He expressed concern that government attempts to implicate Tamils, rather than the LTTE, in the Premadasa killing and the April 23 slaying of opposition leader Lalith Athulathmudali might lead to a majority Sinhalese backlash.

"Anti-Tamil propaganda is counterproductive. It will only be playing into the hands of the LTTE which wants another pogrom," Ketheeswaran said referring to the July 1983 anti-Tamil riots that left over 400 dead here.

The riots in 1983 were sparked by the LTTE killing of 13 Sinhalese soldiers and ever since the intensity of the conflict has kept mounting with a daily toll added to the thousands who have been killed in ethnic violence.

Minority Moslem groups too expressed concern over the political aftermath of Premadasa's assassination and called for the creation of a government of national reconciliation.

"He (Premadasa) was one of the national leaders who reorganised the justification of the existence of a separate political party for the Moslems of Sri Lanka," the Sri Lanka Moslem Congress (SLMC) said in a statement.

PLOTE's Sidhathan said peace could not be established in Sri Lanka's Tamil areas unless the government weakened the LTTE militarily and offered a political package which Sinhalese have resisted since independence in 1948.

Reportage on Athulathmudali's Assassination

Key Witness Admits Lying

BK3004152593 Hong Kong AFP in English 1516 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Colombo, April 30 (AFP) - A supposed key witness in the assassination of Sri Lankan opposition leader Lalith Athulathmudali said Friday that he had lied to the court in earlier testimony.

Wimal Kavindra had told the court a day after the April 23 assassination that he knew the supposed killer was fired at by one of Athulathmudali's bodyguards because the killer was holding his chest at the spot where he had been hit.

But that testimony came into question after it was revealed the body of a young man, originally said by police to be the assassin, had been shot in the back, not the front of his torso.

Under intense questioning at a magisterial enquiry Friday, Kavindra admitted he had "lied," but added that he was now certain the alleged assassin was shot by one of Athulathmudali's bodyguards because he had spotted blood on the back of the man's shirt.

He did not explain why he was untruthful at the earlier hearing.

Police had said the dead young man had been shot by the bodyguard and died later of his wounds, but opposition critics blamed the government for the killing.

Athulathmudali, leader of the Democratic United National Front, was gunned down April 23 while addressing a public meeting as part of the party's campaign for the May 17 provincial council elections.

When the magisterial inquiry resumed Friday, Kavindra, an electrician, agreed with acting Colombo Magistrate M. A. Silva that he had lied by giving false testimony to the court a day after the murder.

Under intense questioning by the magistrate, Kavindra insisted the testimony he gave Friday was true, but Silva said it was noteworthy that Kavindra could recall the incident more clearly seven days later than he could the following day.

He postponed the inquiry until Tuesday.

Kavindra also identified a bullet-riddled body found close to the murder scene as that of the killer, but lawyers for Athulathmudali's family said they had "grave doubts" about his testimony, and suggested witnesses were "under pressure" to identify the body as that of the assassin.

Police also claim the body as that of the murderer but lawyers for Athulathmudali's family said they wanted the court to first determine whether the body was actually that of the assassin or a "plant."

Police have already established that the identity card found on the supposed killer was a forgery.

Almost the entire opposition has blamed the government for the murder of Athulathmudali, who was sacked from the ruling party in 1991 for leading a failed bid to impeach President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Premadasa has rejected the opposition allegations and suggested the assassination was aimed at discrediting his ruling United National party ahead of elections.

UNP Leader Criticizes Remarks on Murder

BK3004080993 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0631 GMT 30 Apr 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 30 Apr (LANKAPUVATH)—Mr. B. Sirisena Cooray, general secretary of the United National Party [UNP] yesterday said Mr. Gamini Dissanayake had deliberately distorted what president Ranasinghe Premadasa had said at the inauguration of the UNP election campaign in Kandy.

He was referring to the statement by Mr. Dissanayake which appeared in the ISLAND newspaper on Wednesday [28 April] under the caption "Search not yet over for the real killer" and a report of Mr. Dissanayake's speech under the caption "Assassination plan hatched on the day impeachment resolution was born—Gamini," which appeared in yesterday's ISLAND newspaper.

The following is the text of Mr. Cooray's statement:

I refer to the statement by Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, which appeared in the ISLAND newspaper of Wednesday under the caption, "Search not yet over for the real killer."

I also refer to his speech reported under the caption "Assassination plan hatched on the day impeachment resolution was born - Gamini," appearing in today's ISLAND newspaper.

Mr. Dissanayake has deliberately distorted what President Ranasinghe Premadasa stated at the inauguration of the UNP election campaign in Kandy last monday. What the president did say was that if Mr. Dissanayake loved Lalith so much why did he not go to the scene of the incident to ascertain whether the assassin could be traced. The president had pointed out that, instead Mr. Gamini Dissanayake and his group rushed to a press conference and accused the United National Party.

As the general secretary of the UNP I ask this question: "Are not the DUNF [Democratic United National Front] and Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, by making false allegations against the UNP, trying to divert the attention of the investigations away from themselves?"

The DUNF member Mr. A.J. Premadasa, who presided at the Kirulapone meeting made a statement to the police identifying the dead body found at Mugalan Road as that of the assassin at a press conference held by Mr. Dissanayake and his brother in law Dr. Wickrema Weerasooriya. They announced that an affidavit was being prepared wherein Mr. A.J. Premadasa was denying his statement to the police. Foreign correspondents who were present immediately announced that they were at Mugalan Road when Mr. A.J. Premadasa identified the body to the police. Is not DUNF seeking to interfere with the investigation to protect itself?

A question was asked at this press conference by the chairman of the DUNF Mr. A.C. Gooneratne as to which party would benefit most by Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali's assassination? To this a foreign correspondent present gave the correct answer. He said the DUNF would be the greatest beneficiary of Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali's killing, at the forthcoming elections.

At the Kandy meeting the president reminded them that the assassin of the late Mr. S.W.R.D Bandaranaike was a leading member of his own party, although the United National Party was accused at the outset. He also reiterated that the late Mr. Athulathmudali "was no rival to him." The president pointed out that the recent leadership struggle in the DUNF established that Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali was a rival to none other than Mr. Gamini Dissanayake himself.

Reports on Tear Gas at Funeral Rejected

BK3004103093 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0646 GMT 30 Apr 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 30 Apr (LANKAPUVATH)—The Sri Lanka Air Force [SLAF] yesterday said none of its aircraft—either fixed wing or helicopters—had been deployed to drop tear gas canisters during Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali's funeral procession.

A statement signed by Air Vice-marshal O.M. Ranasinghe, Chief of Staff, said "this headquarters confirms that the Sri Lanka Air Force did not deploy any fixed wing aircraft or any of its helicopters for dropping tear gas canisters and, in fact, no aircraft belonging to the SLAF was in the vicinity at the time of the funeral procession".

There were newspaper and news agency reports yesterday that tear gas had been dropped from an aircraft. This was also stated by DUNF [Democratic United National Front] spokesman Wickrema Weerasooria at a news conference yesterday.